

RECREATION
MITIGATION MONITOR
SURVEY-OLDMAN RIVER
DAM PROVINCIAL
RECREATION AREA

Prepared for Environmental Protection-Natural Resources
by Paul McLauchlin
PROJECT DURATION:
DECEMBER 1ST, 1995 TO MARCH 25, 1996

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Acknowledgements	9
Executive Summary	10
A Personal Reflection on Recreation In Alberta	14
A Mention of the Protocol and Pattern of the Document	16
General Background on Recreation Studies at the Oldman River Dam: Introduction 1.0	
.....	17
1.1 Goals of this Recreation Mitigation Monitor Survey	18
1.2 Future Recreation Mitigation Monitoring	19
1.3 The Setting	19
Details About the Dam and Reservoir 2.0	20
2.1 Operations of the Dam	21
2.2 Reservoir Characteristics and the Effect on Recreation: the Effect of Drawdown	24
Brief Overview of the Environmental Mitigation Projects at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. 3.0	
.....	26
3.1 Fisheries Mitigation	27
3.2 Wildlife and Habitat Mitigation	28
3.3 Historical Resources Mitigation	28
3.4 Recreation Mitigation	29
Alberta Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas 4.0	29
4.1 Provincial Parks and Recreation Area Designations and the Legislative Mandate	29
4.2 Alberta Parks Core Program Objectives	30

An Introduction to Recreation Mitigation at the Oldman River
Dam Provincial Recreation Area 5.0

.....	32
5.1 Maintaining Existing Recreational Activities and Infrastructure: Maintenance	33
5.2 Improvement of Recreational Activities and Infrastructure: Enhancement	33
5.3 Future Recreational Activities and Infrastructure: Creation	34
A Survey of Present Recreational Facilities and Activities :Maintenance 6.0	35
6.1 The Climate	35
6.2 Recreation Facilities	38
6.2.1 Core Recreational Complex at the Reservoir	40
6.2.2 Peripheral Access Nodes on the Reservoir	45
	46
6.2.3 Other Locations Upstream and Downstream	49
	49
6.3 A Survey of Recreational Activities	50
6.3.1 Land Based Recreation	53
Hiking	53
Nature Interpretation	53
Picnicing	53
Sight-seeing	54
Camping	54
Driving Tours	55
6.3.2 Water Based Recreation	55
Swimming	55
Beachcombing	56
Boating	56
SportFishing	57
Sailing/Windsurfing	57
Diving	57
Canoeing and Kayaking	58
6.3.3 Winter Recreation	58
Snowshoeing	59
Ice-sailing	59
Ice Fishing	59
Cross Country Skiing	59
Snowmobiling	60

Downhill Skiing	60
6.4 Signage Suggestions	61
Recreation Activities and Facility Use At Present: Maintenance 7.0	63
7.1 Campground User Statistics	63
7.2 Comment Card Survey	65
7.3 Creel Census Information	67
7.4 Special Events at the Oldman Dam P.R.A.	68
7.4.1 Children of the Wind Kite Festival	68
	68
7.5 Service Clubs and other User Organizations	69
7.5.1 CWR Boat Club	70
7.5.2 Southern Alberta Water Sciences Society: Sawss	70
7.6 Local Special Sites	70
7.6.1 Rock and Fossil Museum	71
7.6.2 Heritage Acres	71
7.6.3 Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump	71
7.6.4 Frank Slide and other Mining Related Historic Sites	71
	72
7.6.5 Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park	72
Resource Based Recreation at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. : Enhancement 8.0	73
8.1 Fishing: Enhancement	74
8.2 Hunting	75
8.3 Heritage Appreciation / Interpretation	77
Water Based Recreation: Enhancement 9.0	78
9.1 Boating: Enhancement	78
	78
9.1.1 Windy Point: Boating Enhancement	79
9.1.2 Island View Campground: Boating Enhancement	80
	81
9.1.3 North Fork Day Use: Boating Enhancement	83
9.1.4 South Cove Day Use: Boating Enhancement	83
9.1.5 Todd Creek Day Use: Boating Enhancement	83
9.1.6 Boulder Run Day Use: Boating Enhancement	84
9.1.7 Cottonwood Day Use Area: Boating Enhancement	86
9.2 Windsurfing/Sailing: Enhancement	87
Land Based Recreation: Enhancement 10.0	87
10.1 Barrier Free Recreation Sites: Enhancement	88
10.2 Cottonwood Campground Enhancement	89
10.3 Chinook R.V. Park Enhancement.	89

10.4 Island View Campground Enhancement	90
10.5 Potential Day Use/Tenting Sites Enhancement	90
Marketing and Local Considerations: Enhancement 11.0	91
11.1 Economic Considerations	92
11.2 Regional Marketing and Parks	92
Creation 12.0	94
The Future Trends of Recreation 13.0	95
Final Recommendation and Conclusions 14.0	96
14.1 Key Recommendations	97
14.2 Conclusion	99
Additional Photos	100
References	107
Appendices	110

RECREATION MITIGATION MONITOR SURVEY-OLDMAN RIVER DAM P.R.A.

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One can never realistically appreciate all of the contribution others can make to any product such as this. I will however attempt to acknowledge the contributive forces to the final product of this mitigation survey. Martin Paetz has been much more than an supportive force for the duration of this product and at his young age has inadvertently become a mentor. Although far away Wanda Nadasde has always been a great support for a young park ranger as has Gary Hellinga and Paul Blogorodow. Appropriately, there was, Al Heschel who has been one of the many very supportive outside contributors to the project. John Mahoney, Carmen Weatherall, and Dave Hay have all contributed personal communications that aided in the final product.

Executive Summary

Recreation has etched itself into the culture of all Canadians and has become to us a unifying component of our common culture. It has become often become the goal of many of our endeavours and of many of our lives. The importance of a recreational development such as this or any development for that matter is thus an important one. When the first turning of the sod occurred at the Oldman River Dam it was envisioned that a recreational mitigation project would replace the recreation lost by the building of the dam while at the same time taking advantage of a new and sizeable water body of the reservoir. As can be seen from the preceeding report the goal of recreation mitigation project has been a successful one. It has provided Albertans and Tourists alike with a recreational venue that is enjoyable and diverse. A development such as this has greatly diversified the recreation activities available to the region and has provided Southern Alberta with a new destination for recreation. This recreation monitoring study will allow for the continued success of the project and allow for a viable future of the Provincial Recreation Area.

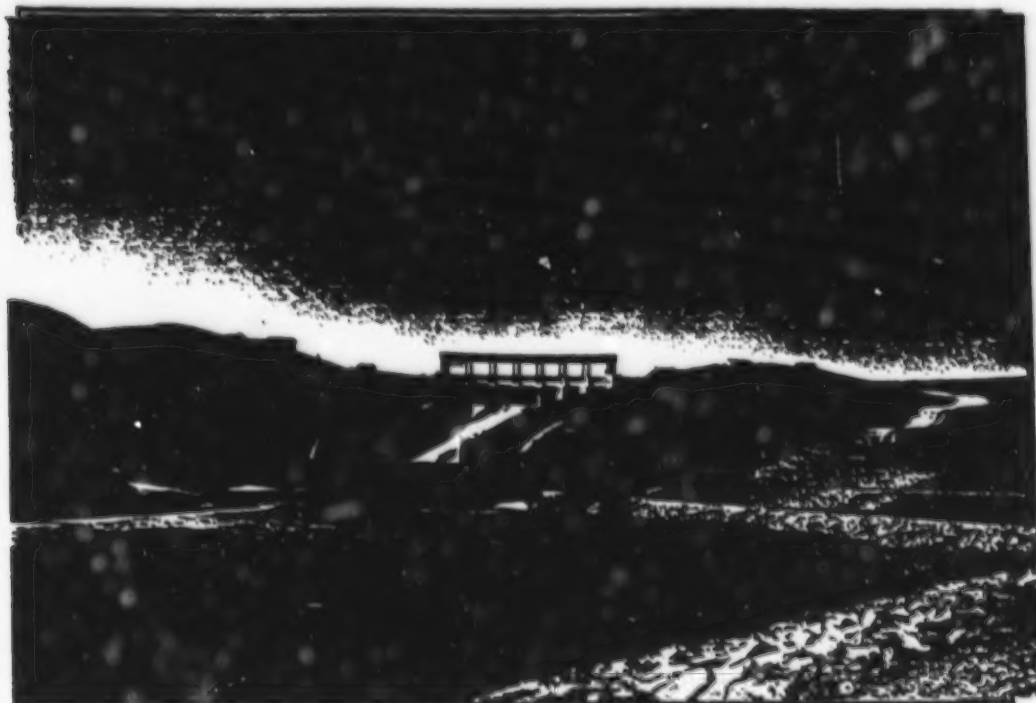


Figure 1. Oldman River Dam Headworks

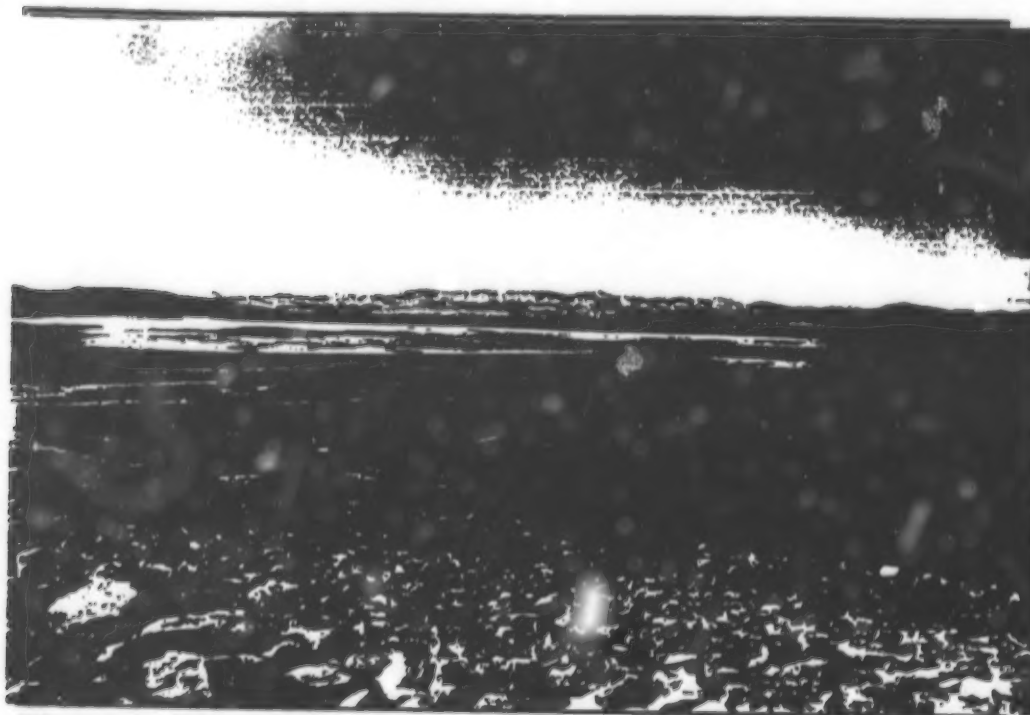


Figure 2. View of Reservoir Livingstone Range in Background

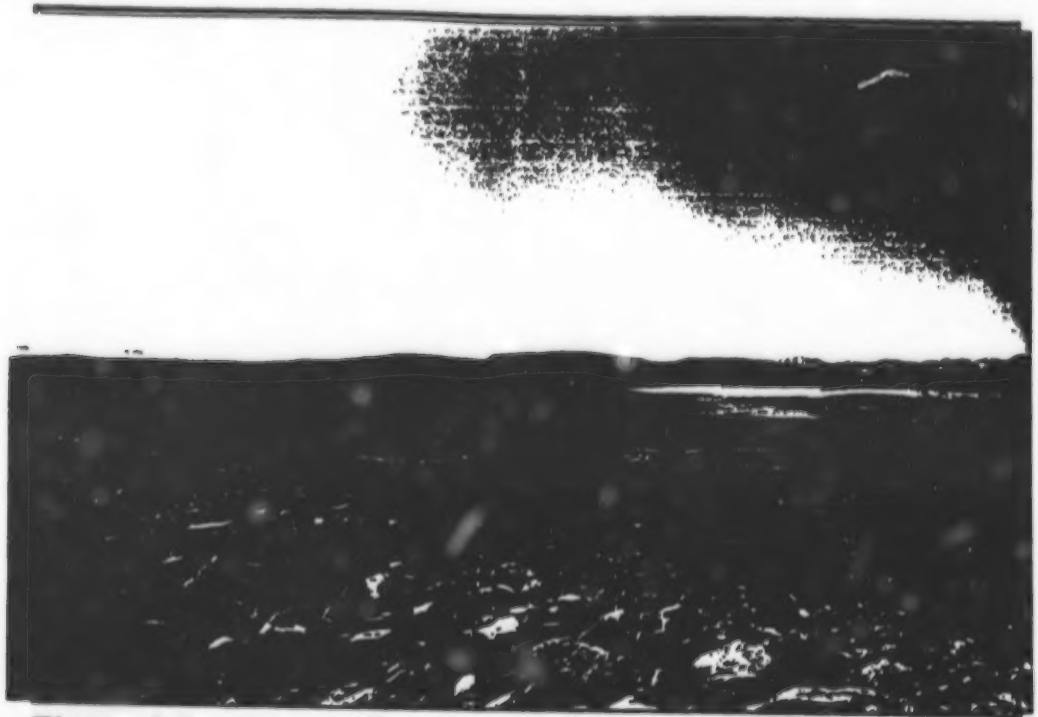
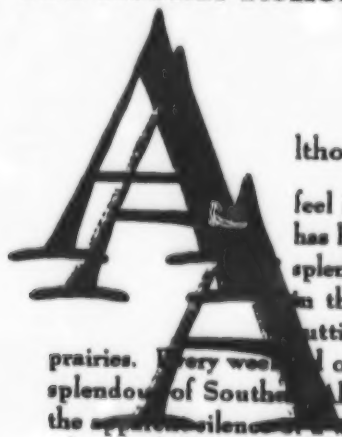


Figure 3. Southwest View Across Reservoir

A Personal Reflection on Recreation In Alberta



Although it is unusual to provide a personal reflection in a report such as this I do

feel it is important to reflect on the personal effect outdoor recreation in Alberta has had on me. Being a born and raised Albertan I have been a lifelong user of the splendid variety in outdoor recreation that Alberta provides. I grew up to be either in the shadow of a majestic mountain peak, casting a fly into a wooded stream putting it's way through the foothills or walking amidst the flowing wheat of the prairies. Every weekend of my extreme youth was spent camping, fishing, swimming, or hiking in the splendour of Southern Alberta. My memories are filled with many trout caught on a taut flailing line, the apparent silence of a wooded path, standing but a few feet from a grazing elk, deer, moose, or even a bear and the air filled with a thousand laughters around a few hundred campfires in the cool Alberta summer nights.

I live in a country that is recognized internationally for it's wild and beautiful spaces. If we consider the shortness of our summer season (I would dare submit two months as the number) the importance of recreation facilities and their many adventures carries a lot of weight to the people of Alberta, Canada and the much endeared International visitors. The stewards of recreation sites must then consider they are managers or operators of much more then recreation facilities and opportunities they are, however melodramatic this may sound, the stewards of memories. As I will continue my whole life to enjoy the recreation opportunities in the splendour of Alberta the days spent there will provide me with many cherished memories.

Therefore, recreation provides lifelong memories to the users of our outdoor recreation sites in Alberta. Management and operations of these sites should then be approached with this great responsibility in mind.

Paul A. McLauchlin
March 25th, 1996

"There are those who decry wilderness sports as 'undemocratic' because the recreational carrying capacity of a wilderness is small, as compared with a golf links or a tourist camp. The basic error in such argument is that it applies the philosophy of mass production to what is intended to counteract mass production. The value of recreation is not a matter of ciphers. Recreation is valuable in proportion to the intensity of its experiences, and to the degree to which it *differs from and contrasts with* workaday life." Aldo Leopold, 1949.

"To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization." Bertrand Russell.

"We must all be concerned with the future, because we will spend all our lives there" Charles Kettering

A Mention of the Protocol and Pattern of the Document

This was an admittedly a hard project to undertake given the product to work with. The Oldman Dam is a sensitive and political project since it's very beginnings. The underlying political nature of the project as a whole has not been subdued since the first turning of the sod way back in 1985. Sincerity in the attempt of mitigation has remained since the projects inception but, has still at times sustained a very negative and aggressive opposition. The literature is riddled with bias and conjecture and it is difficult to discern hidden agendas throughout my literature review. A common theme has existed in the literature regarding any similar mitigation projects: one cannot admittedly replace what might have been displaced or lost by any new development but, there exists a chance to attempt to create something new and viable for the future from that which is gone (Graefe, 1981, Hendee, 1974). In planning a site such as this there exists a great level of uncertainty and speculation in meeting the proposed needs of users (Jackson, 1978). Given the lack of solid past experience in recreation mitigation of this scale one cannot expect perfection (NPS, 1980,1544A).

There has been very little empirical data to work with so much what is presented here in terms of monitoring is based on conversations and at times on speculations. However, regardless of the lack of direct empirical and statistical information this does not reduce the validity of this report.

It is essential to note that this report was written with the notion that Alberta Parks will remain involved in program delivery. It follows the past mandate of providing recreational opportunities and service coupled with the stewardship of natural resources. Although this degree of program delivery may change in the future due to privatization of some of the program components it is important to consider this theme in the document by addressing the needs of "Client-Oriented" recreational opportunities and service (Peirce, 1980). It is not apparent if the current downsizing and fiscal restructuring present in government will continue but, this report will address a high degree of fiscal responsibility ensuring a cost-effective and efficient approach to operations and augmentations of recreation facilities.

General Background on Recreation Studies at the Oldman River Dam: Introduction 1.0

Initial environmental assessments of the Oldman River Dam date back to the preliminary studies initiated around 1974. These were reported on in the Oldman River Flow Regulation Preliminary Planning Studies that was finally completed two years later in 1976. Additional work was undertaken during the second phase of the planning studies that were completed during the 1976-1978 period. These studies culminated finally in the 1984 announcement by the Government of Alberta that construction of the dam at the site of the Three Rivers would finally be launched. This move began an Environmental Mitigation and Opportunities Action Plan in hopes to remedy and augment affects that the dam construction would have both environmentally and recreationally.

A Recreation/Tourism Overview for the project was completed in April of 1985 (by the Planning Division of Alberta Environment). In 1987 Alberta Environment contracted Wood Bay Consulting Group Limited to prepare a recommended Recreation/Tourism concept plan for the Oldman River Dam (MMMW & WBCL, 1987a). This overview document lead the way to a three phase report on the Recreation-Tourism mitigation of the future reservoir. Phase I of the report was an "Inventory and Assessment" document determining site feasibilities and opportunities (MMMW & WBCL, 1987b) whereas, Phase II of the report involved a "Recreation Development Opportunities Concept Alternatives" (MMMW & WBCL, 1987c). The final component of the report was the December of 1987 Phase III document outlining "A Recommended Development Opportunities Concept Plan" (WBCL, 1987).

1.1 Goals of this Recreation Mitigation Monitor Survey

The following report follows the filling of the reservoir and a three season running of the recreational facilities. Recreation Mitigation has taken on four phases:

- I. Overview and Data Collection
 - II. Assessment and Mitigation Design
 - III. Mitigation Implementation
- and finally,
- IV. Monitoring

This document is a final phase of Recreation Mitigation involving the Recreation Monitoring of the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. addressing the use and effectiveness of the recreational mitigation facility developments. Initiated by Water Resources with participation of Alberta Parks the "General Objectives" of this study have been formulated as follows:

"To Strengthen the classification of the area in the park system. Articulate the recreation activities presently being pursued and address future possibilities. Determine resource management requirements to meet the objectives and address hunting issues within the Provincial Recreation Area lands. Identify upgrading and development requirements to meet the objectives."

1.2 Future Recreation Mitigation Monitoring

This report will contribute to the future proposed Management Plan for the Oldman River Dam Provincial Recreation Area while supplying baseline data for future monitoring. The Management Plan has currently been initiated and will take approximately two years until completion. Completion of the management plan will define the objectives, management, and operations of the P.R.A. for the future.

1.3 The Setting

This approximately 2420 hectare storage reservoir is found approximately 92 kilometres west of Lethbridge, 12 kilometres north of Pincher Creek on secondary road 785, 220 kilometres southwest of Calgary and 540 kilometres southwest of Edmonton. At full supply level (FSL) the reservoir is approximately 24 kilometres long by 3 kilometres at the widest. It is connected by the Crowsnest River, Oldman River and the Castle Rivers as the main tributary inflows with the outflow being the Oldman River. The reservoir has views of the Livingstone range to the west along it's east west orientation and the prairies to the east. To the north the southern extent of the Porcupine hills can be seen from the reservoir.



Figure 4. Dam Headworks Above the Oldman River

Details About the Dam and Reservoir 2.0

The motive behind the creation of the Oldman River Dam was based on a "proposed need" for a location for on stream storage. With an approximate 125,000 Albertans depending on the Oldman River and its tributaries as a major source of water it was determined that :

"unregulated 'Natural' rivers with great variations in flow cannot optimally meet the ever increasing demands of approximately 50 communities in Southern Alberta, nine irrigation districts, commitments to Saskatchewan under the Apportionment Agreement, and suitable water quality during low flow periods" (Thiessen and Lindner, 1989).

Thus , in response to these seasonal and annual variations in river volumes an on stream storage reservoir by use of an earthfill dam would allow for

these required regulated water flows.

2.1 Operations of the Dam

I do not want to riddle this section with a jumble of technical data concerning the Dam structure itself. It is however, essential to understand the general operational workings of the dam in order to understand the effects a reservoir has on the recreation facilities and opportunities occurring on the waterbody itself, upstream, and downstream.

The operation of the dam can be basically defined as a means of storing water at times of excessive tributary inflows (for example spring runoff) to regulate the release over the times of low tributary inflows (fall and winter) (Fernet and Matkowski, 1986). Regulated release from the storage levels (resevoir drawdowns) are projected to include anticipated inflows (expected precipitation and snow melt) and the required outflow demands of: irrigation, interprovincial treaties, fishery requirements downstream, and onsite or downstream recreation demands (Mahoney, 1996, Persomal Communications).

The dam structure itself is mostly earthfill stucture with a surface area of 2420 hectares at the full supply level of 1118.6 metres (Chalcroft and Baggot, 1989). Based on operational projections the maximum probability of the resevoir levels falling between a level of 1110.0 m and the FSL of 1118.6 m is 91% (Devachi et al., 1989). The importance of this maximum probability is due to this lower parameter of the 1110.0 m level being the lowest recreationally operational elevation of the resevoir supported by the present facility structures (MMMWL & WBCL, 1987a).

As can be seen in the following figure the effect of water level changes is a seasonal one. With an attempt to attain the F.S.L. level by early July the reservoir can then maintain all the outflow demands place on the reservoir. This F.S.L. coincides with the peak recreation demands on the reservoir. In the accompanying figure the reservoir levels are based on the average values expected (53% of the time) and may fluctuate greatly from the norm given the numerous variables involved (John Mahoney, Personal Communication, 1996; DECL, 1988; DECL, 1990).

Reservoir levels and longterm recreation sustainability is dependent greatly on a large number of regional demands: the Piegan reservation, LNIID(Lethbridge North Irrigation District), a "Fish Rule Curve" that assesses the downstream flow required to sustain fish populations and Interprovincial water treaties (John Mahoney, Personal Communications, 1996).

In times of low water there exists a heirarchy in meeting the demands of stake holders

I. Agricultural

II. Wildlife and Fisheries

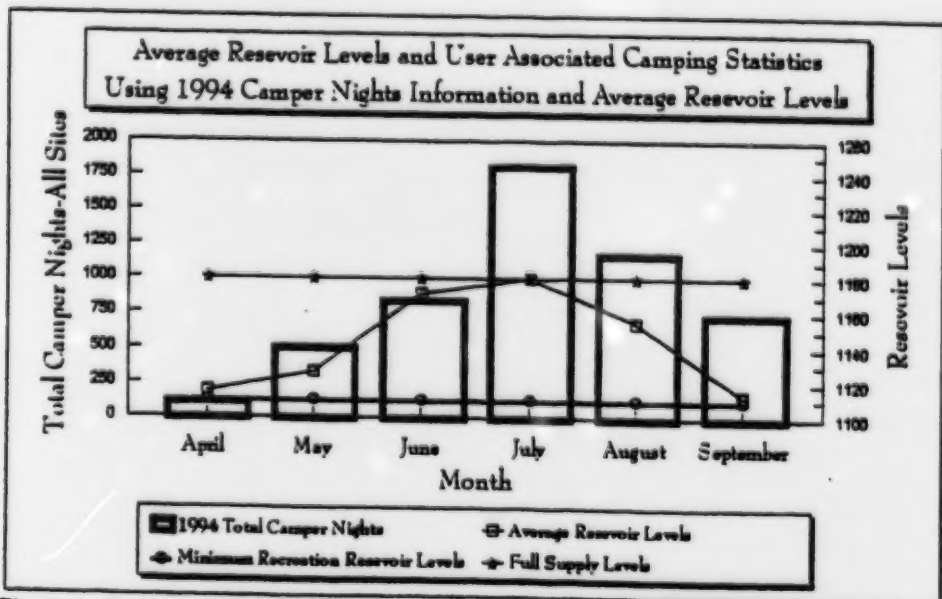


Figure 4. Reservoir Level Changes (Average) and Camper Night Data: Peak Levels Coincide with Peak Recreation

and finally,

III. Recreation.

Ultimately the reservoir is an irrigation project and should be seen as such in times of low water volumes in the region.

It should also be noted that the present dam operations are maintained under an interim license at present with the year 2000 being the time of reevaluation of this license and will request input from all stakeholders.

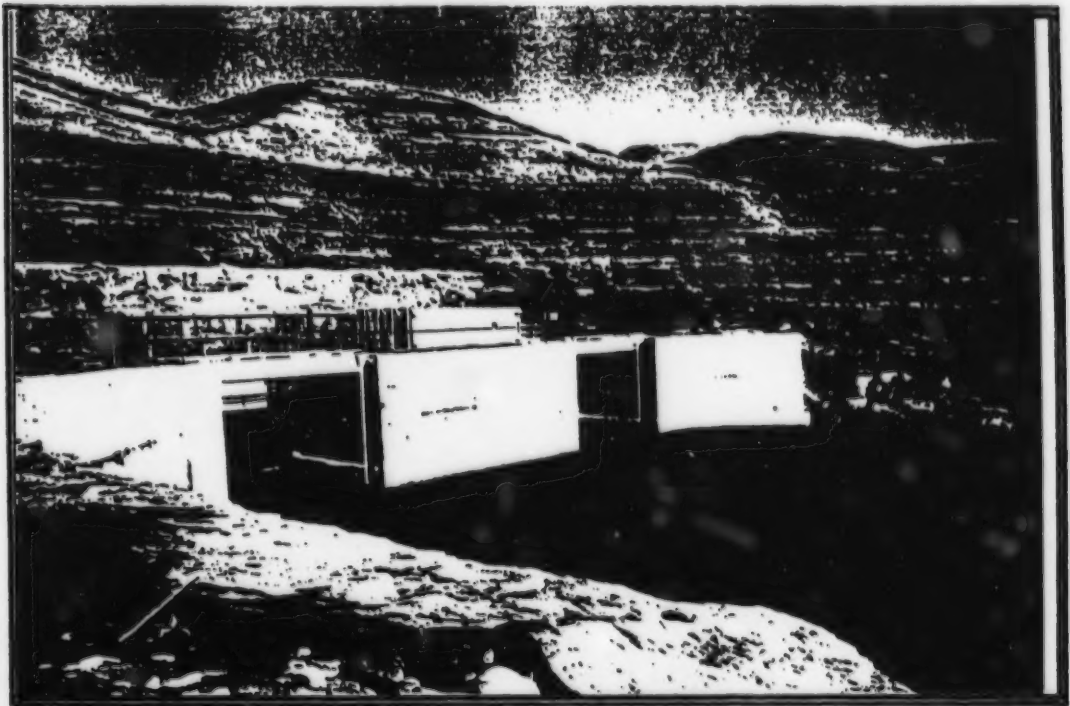


Figure 5. Diversion Tunnel Below Dam Spillway

2.2 Reservoir Characteristics and the Effect on Recreation: the Effect of Drawdown

From the prospective of a recreational user as well as the other environmental mitigative efforts one of the most important characteristics of a reservoir is the effect of periodic drawdown. Drawdown, which by definition delineates the difference between a resevoir and most natural lakes, is due to the often dramatic (controlled) changes seasonally of water levels in the reservoir. The effect of drawdown has two kinds of possible impacts first a visual effect (aesthetic) and secondly a practical effect (MMMWL & WBCL, 1987a).

Visual effects of reservoir drawdown is the seen in the exposure of areas of once submerged shoreline that may create unappealing sights of mud flats or exposed shoreline litter. The extensiveness and appearance of these exposed "mud flats" is very often dependent on the slope of the shorelines and the nature of those soils that are exposed (WBCL, 1987). A very gradual slope results in a very extensive mud flat as the reservoir drops an if the associated shoreline is composed of mostly fine soil material (MMMWL & WBCL, 1987a). This visual effect is more likely to be a concern to recreational stakeholders (cottages and the like) and local residents who may value their view of the Oldman River Dam reservoir (WBCL, 1987). This visual component may also affect boaters out for wildlife viewing or who are out sight-seeing. The affect would not be such a concern for people involved in sports like water skiing and wind surfing although the attractiveness of the reservoir setting may play a role in their destination for recreation.

The Oldman River Resevoir is not as susceptible to drawdown impacts as is many other southern Alberta reservoirs. Much of the reservoirs shoreline is steep and is composed of a great deal of bedrock (MMMWL & WBCL,

1987a). Consequently, shoreline exposure during drawdown is relatively small and the exposed bedrock can be seen by many as being quite visually appealing. The greatest exposures are on the valley bottoms along the arms of the reservoir such as the site at North Fork Boat Launch and Todd Creek up the Crowsnest River (MMMWL & WBCL, 1987a). Some of the materials here are fine grained and one would expect further silt accumulation over time due to stream deposition (visually seen now post-flooding). The Crowsnest River arm appears particularly susceptible to drawdown impacts (Todd Creek and downstream). Given its alignment with the prevailing winds, soil drifting during periods of extreme drawdown may be a concern.

Drawdown can physically limit activities that occur on a reservoir (MMMWL & WBCL, 1987a). Reservoir boat launches are designed to operate over a fixed vertical range and as the reservoir levels drop islands often appear which may affect safe boating (MMMWL & WBCL, 1987a). Beaches (eg. Windy Point) and other shoreline access points (eg. South Cove) may become unusable if water levels drop extremely.

Another dramatic practical effect of drawdown is a biological one. The developement of a littoral shoreline is very limited due to the drawdown effect of a resevoir. A littoral zone is that which occurs in the shallow water in which light is permitted to penetrate to the bottom (DECL, 1988). It permits the addition of large amounts of detrital material that is important to the functioning of natural lake ecosystems. Due to the effect of drawdown this littoral zone which acts to increase the fisheries productivity of a water body may never fully take hold.

Finally, regardless of the drawdown effects aforementioned operationally the F.S.L. is approached by July 1st which conincides with the peak recreational pressures that would occur on the reservoir. In the shoulder seasons the reservoir drawdown effect is at it's maximum but, due to the lack of visitor pressures at this time of year it is of little serious concern in terms of recreation. The previous figure showed that the seasonal drawdown is not in conflict with the peak recreation demand on the reservoir (see appendix

IV). However, effects of drawdown does require constant monitoring to ensure the safety and effective operations of recreation facilities and activities.

Brief Overview of the Environmental Mitigation Projects at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. 3.0

Mitigation by definition: is the process of making less severe, intense or the act of making milder.

The mitigation projects associated with the Oldman River Dam project was the largest such program of it's type ever undertaken in Alberta (Barlshen, 1989). It is essential to briefly outline other mitigation projects at the Oldman River dam because of their close association with the recreation activities occurring at the site. Success of mitigation projects in other areas will greatly effect the success of recreation mitigation at the Oldman River dam.

Most of the mitigation project at the Oldman River Dam have been directed by a prescribed series of phases since their intiation in 1985.

Phase I involved an overview and data collection.

Phase II comprised the impact assessments and design of mitigation

Phase III presented the implementation of mitigation projects with

Phase IV being the monitoring of mitigation projects to allow for a response and augmentation to solve any unforeseen problems.

3.1 Fisheries Mitigation

Mitigation programs associated with fisheries mitigation has been directed to meet the federal government policy of "no net loss of recreational fishing opportunities" (Barlishen, 1989). The main component of this mitigation work has been centered on the replacement of riverine habitat upstream and downstream from the reservoir site that was affected by reservoir filling. Upstream habitat enhancement for trout species and the development of a self-sustaining downstream trout population are the main projects that occurred and are still being monitored (Barlishen, 1989). Of great note in terms of recreation is the internationally recognized blue-ribbon fishing on the Crowsnest River which has been approached seriously in terms of mitigation work. Concentrating on affected Riverine community enhancement has been the key area of efforts and not using a reservoir based fisheries as a replacement for these displaced fishing opportunities.

The reservoir is not expected to be a productive fisheries but, is being monitored in the case of the possibility of creating a viable stocking program (Fernet and Matkowski, 1986; Hydroqual, 1986). It is noted that in terms of the sustainable reservoir fisheries the mouths of most of the entering streams has provided a successful fishing opportunity to date and this will likely be maintained. These areas provide the most productive littoral zones on the reservoir with substantial nutrient inflows and habitat. Maintaining and monitoring fishing pressures at these locations and the appropriate changes to fishing regulations will maintain the sustainability of these sites for the future.

3.2 Wildlife and Habitat Mitigation

A two pronged approach has followed the wildlife mitigation occurring at the Oldman River Dam. The primary motive was an attempt to minimize the effects of the dam and reservoir had on wildlife and secondly to take advantage of new habitat provided by the reservoir (Barlshen, 1989). Steps in mitigating wildlife resulted in an overview and the collection of data, assessment and mitigation design, mitigation implementation and finally the monitoring of the mitigative efforts brought about after filling (Barlshen, 1989). Implementation began in 1987 and has continued until today to be seen in the present monitoring program (ungulate population studies and the like). Wetland creation, wildlife control areas, nest site protection or creation, and shelter belt creation have been some of the efforts undertaken.

3.3 Historical Resources Mitigation

Historical resources mitigation involved the identification, research, documentation, and cataloging to preserve information from "sites of historical (prehistoric, historic, and paleontological) significance that will be subject to impact by the project and to ensure that future generations will have the benefit of this information"(Barlshen, 1989). All work was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Alberta Historical Resources Act. A "historical resource" is "any work of nature or of man that is primarily of value for its palaeontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific, or aesthetic interest"(Barlshen, 1989). Most of the work done was in the area of archaeological excavation of prehistoric sites looking at killsites and campsites (Barlshen, 1989). Work such as a video summarizing the cultural and natural history of the area has also been done. This project is important in terms of the "heritage appreciation" mandate of parks and will be a great asset to heritage programming.

3.4 Recreation Mitigation

This mitigation component will be addressed throughout the following document. Thus, it will not be outlined here.

Alberta Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas 4.0

The Oldman River Dam has been designated a Provincial Recreation Area (P.R.A.) it is essential to define this designation. The legislative definition of Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas the Mandate of Parks supplies the park managers with the direction of the operations and programming of a specifically designated park.

4.1 Provincial Parks and Recreation Area Designations and the Legislative Mandate

The legislative mandate for Alberta Parks is set out in the Provincial Parks Act, PPA, (1983) in Sections 3 and 4. The purpose of Provincial Parks is outlined as follows:

Section 3 of the PPA states:

3. Parks shall be developed and maintained

- a) for the conservation and management of flora and fauna
- b) for the preservation of specified areas and objects therein that are of geological, cultural, ecological or other scientific interest, and
- c) to facilitate their use and enjoyment for outdoor recreation

With the purpose of Recreation Areas stated in Section 4 of the PPA:

- #### 4. Recreation areas shall be developed and maintained to facilitate their use and enjoyment for outdoor recreation.

The Oldman River Dam falls under the legislative direction of the latter as a recreation area. While the mandate itself directs the area as primarily a venue for recreation the stewardship of natural resources is still a strong mandate of the recreation areas management.

4.2 Alberta Parks Core Program Objectives

These objectives form the basis of the program delivery and services provided currently by the Parks organization. Although these core program titles or themes may have changed from those in the past it is anticipated that they will follow this direction for the future. The weighting of these program objectives will change as time goes on but, ultimately it is the role of a Provincial Park or Recreation to supply the users and manage the land bases following these core objectives.

Protection

The preservation and protection of a lasting system of natural landscapes and features that reflect special or outstanding natural areas and features. This includes the preservation of landscapes and features that represent prehistoric, historic, and cultural resources of the Province of Alberta.

Outdoor Recreation

Providing the recreational users, of the land base under the management of parks, with an intensive and dispersed variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and there related facilities and services.

Heritage Appreciation

By providing people with a variety of opportunities to venture throughout the province to discover and gain an appreciation for the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Alberta. Through this discovery and education there will be an increased understanding of the people of our natural environment and peoples relationship with it and dependence on it.

Tourism

The active encouragement of residents and visitors to explore and enjoy natural, historical and cultural resources of the province through a variety of recreation opportunities, facilities and accomodation services.

It is important to consider all of these core objectives in the management and monitoring of recreation sites in order to maintain a balance of these land based priorities.

More simply put the goal of Parks is to be the effective stewards of natural resources (Protection and Appreciation) while at the same time being responsive to the recreational needs and services requested by the public (Recreation and Tourism).

An Introduction to Recreation Mitigation at the Oldman River Dam Provincial Recreation Area 5.0

As was mentioned earlier mitigation of recreation at the Oldman River Dam Project was designed to replace the recreational opportunities that were or may have been lost due to the construction of the reservoir. Recreational development also occurred as a response to the new opportunities fashioned by the establishment of a new body of water in the form of a reservoir. In the mitigation of recreational opportunities on the reservoir the underlying strategy of planning facilities was to allow for the safe and easy access to the recreational opportunities the reservoir may provide.

Three primary objectives will be pursued in the following evaluation of the mitigation of recreation at the P.R.A.: maintaining of the existing recreational infrastructure and activities (baseline present situation), the possible enhancement of existing recreational infrastructure and activities, and finally the possible creation of new recreational infrastructure and activities. These core directives of Maintenance, Enhancement and Creation will be pursued in the remainder of this document.

5.1 Maintaining Existing Recreational Activities and Infrastructure: Maintenance

The recreation mitigation at the Old Man Dam involved the establishment of core areas of infrastructure that facilitate safe access to the reservoir for day or extended stay recreational use. Access nodes around the reservoir (peripheral) have a varying degree of development and theme of recreation. In evaluating the sites based on use, access, and site theme the present facilities at the dam can be evaluated and maintained. This maintenance priority is dependent on the accepted present abilities of the facilities and recreational opportunity to meet user recreational needs.

5.2 Improvement of Recreational Activities and Infrastructure: Enhancement

In augmenting and improving existing sites at the Oldman River Dam Provincial Recreation area the projected needs of users can be better addressed. Assessing of sites and commenting on their possible improvement, expansion or even reduction the recreational needs for the immediate future may be addressed. This area also includes the marketing of present recreational opportunities on either a local and regional level.

5.3 Future Recreational Activities and Infrastructure: Creation

The future recreational needs of facility users given an expected increase in visitor use as the area matures must be addressed. Anticipating recreational changes in the future is difficult but, a flexibility in site establishment, improvement or even the reduction of some sites may better predict facility changes.

Within the future recreational considerations the creation of a longterm survey mechanism will allow for the feedback required (empirical and public suggestions) for the determination of the facilities ability to meet recreational program objectives.

A Survey of Present Recreational Facilities and Activities :Maintenance 6.0

This section outlines the present facilities at the Oldman River Dam Provincial Recreation Area outlining a survey of existing infrastructure and recreational activities. An inventory of existing outdoor recreational activities and uses of the lands within the reservoir area, the Oldman River downstream of the headworks, the Crowsnest River upstream, and short stretches, upstream of the reservoir, of the Oldman River and Castle River. This section will also address some of the variables that may effect recreation quality.

6.1 The Climate and Recreational Quality

This is an exceptionally important consideration in the recreation patterns of users at the Oldman River Dam. Prevailing winds, unpredictability, precipitation and temperatures are all seen as very important factors in the recreational quality at the reservoir. This factor alone is a strong consideration in any expansion and other motives at the location because few areas on the reservoir are favorable locations out of an almost ever present wind (ie. regional conditions and the east-west axis of the reservoir and orographic influences). This section will present the brief historical meteorological data for the region and the importance of this factor on recreation (all information is summarized from Atmospheric Environment Services, 1982 a,b, and c).



Figure 6. Looking East Across the Reservoir: The Reservoir Lies in an East-West Direction

As can be seen from the following tables the maximum temperatures during July and August is approximately 16° Celcius Table 1 (Summarized from: Atmospheric Environment Service, 1982a).

Wind is the most prevalent of all the climatic factors that will regulate or impede the recreational quality of the users. It is an important safety factor, a factor limiting recreational types, the apparent (that which is felt) temperature, and regulates snow distribution ie. Chinooks. To symbolize the negative affect that the prevalent wind has on the apparent (felt) temperature is an air temperature of 8° Celcius becomes a Wind-Chill equivalent of 0° Celcius in a twenty kilometre and hour wind which as can be seen in Table II is somewhat close to the average. Landbased recreation can be disheartening on a windswept hill or on a picnic. Waterskiing and

Table 1: Average Temperature and Precipitation Data for Areas Near the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

Location	October		November		December		January		February		March	
	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec
	C	mm	C	mm	C	mm	C	mm	C	mm	C	mm
Pincher Creek	61	245	-15	309	-61	359	-102	409	-52	349	-26	369
Pincher Station	66	281	-09	31	-55	304	-95	326	-47	257	-24	296
Cowley Airport	58	228	-19	279	-65	432	-104	388	-56	340	-29	269
Average	62	251	-14	299	-60	365	-100	374	-52	315	-26	311

Location	April		May		June		July		August		September	
	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec	Temp	Prec
	C	mm	C	mm	C	mm	C	mm	C	mm	C	mm
Pincher Creek	34	51.9	92	785	133	995	165	424	154	628	109	476
Pincher Station	37	61.6	94	718	132	842	165	451	155	506	114	527
Cowley Airport	30	41.4	89	574	131	781	160	399	152	493	107	374
Average	30	51.6	92	692	132	873	163	425	154	542	110	459

powerboating are very wind dependent recreation that does not favor strong winds. However, recreational pursuits such as windsurfing, sailing and kite flying are really the only recreational pursuits that favor wind conditions such as this.

Table II. Wind Speed Averages For Areas Near the Oldman RiverDam P.R.A. in Kilometres per Hour (Atmospheric Environment Service, 1982 c).

	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Location												
Pincher Creek	23.5	22.9	19.7	20.1	17.9	17.6	15.2	15.5	17.4	23.3	21.9	22.7
Pincher Station	23.8	24.9	22.9	19.2	22.1	20.6	17.3	15.8	17.1	22.9	25.2	26.4
Cowley Airport	19.5	19.1	19.1	18.9	17.6	18.1	15.8	16	17.5	20.7	22.2	24.9
Average	22.3	22.3	20.6	19.4	19.2	18.8	16.1	15.8	17.3	22.3	23.1	24.7

6.2 A Summary of Recreational Facilities Provided by the Present Level of Development.

Referring to figures provided the area was divided into two areas. The Core Recreational Complex and the Peripheral Access Nodes with the areas representing different levels of development and activities.



Figure 7. Chinook R.V. Park and the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. Park Operation Shop and Office

6.2.1 Core Recreational Complex at the Reservoir

The primary core recreational development complex is located by the present parks office and dam operations building for Water Resources. This can be seen as the primary high use location with the main concentration of facility developments.

The Area has the Following Sites:

- Chinook Recreational Vehicle Park
- Cottonwood Campground
- Cottonwood Day Use
- Three Rivers Group Camp
- Windy Point Day Use and Boat Launch

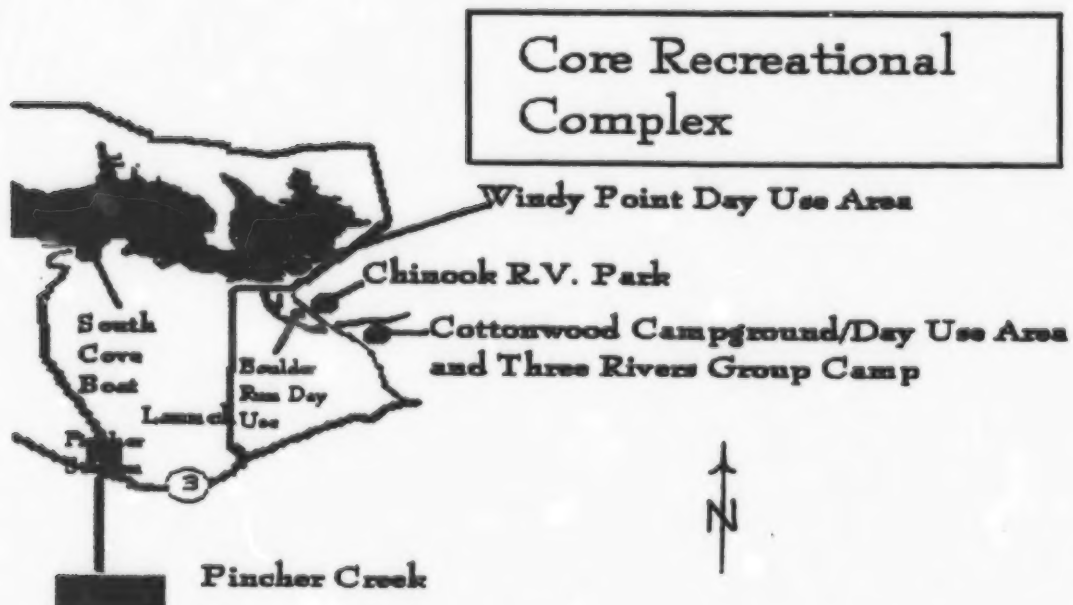


Figure 8. Core Recreation Complex at the Oldman River Dam. Extreme East

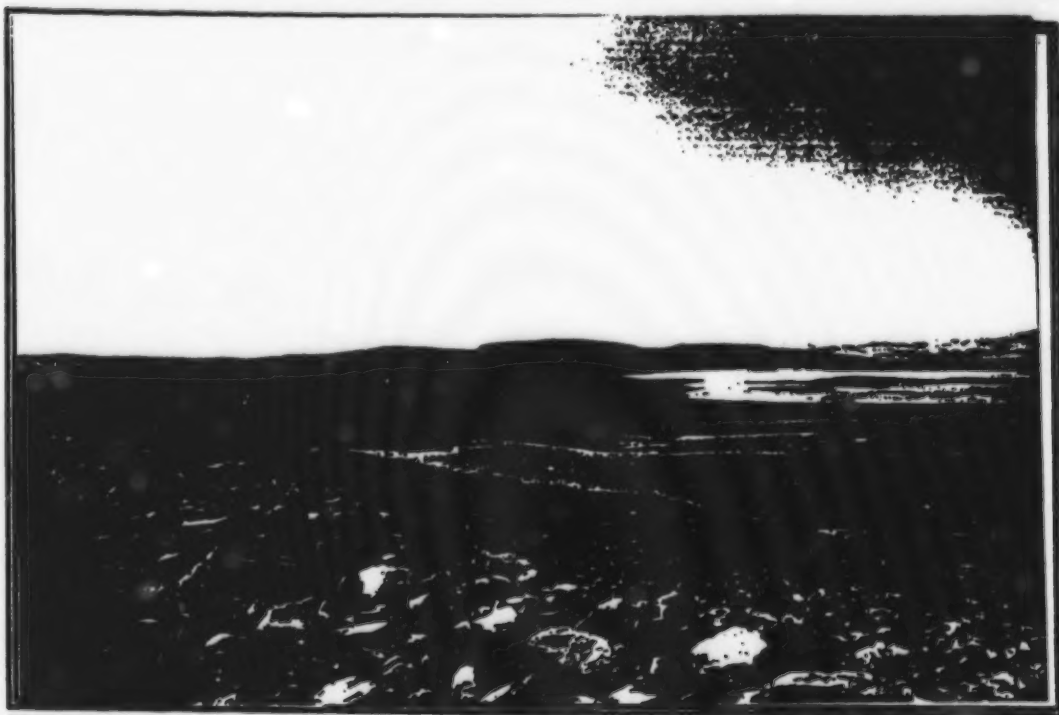


Figure 9. Looking Southwest from Far East End of the Reservoir: Windy Point Day Use in the Foreground. Dam Headworks Far off to the Left. South Cove Near Right End of Ridge on Other Side of Reservoir. Chinook, Cottonwood, and Boulder Run Below and to the Left of the Headworks Structure.

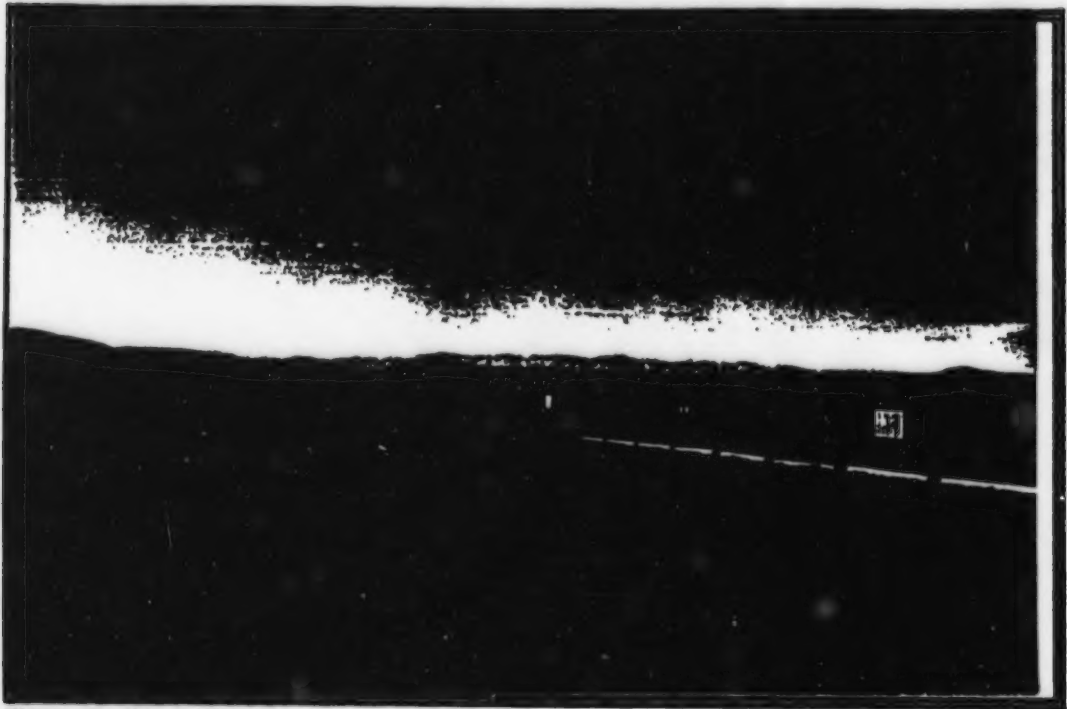


Figure 10. Windy Point Day Use Area



Figure 11. Boulder Run

Table III. Summary of Camping Facilities Available at the Core Development Complex at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

Campground name	Electrical Hookup (and T.V.)	Electric, Water, Sewage, T.V. Hookups	Total Sites	Max R.V. length	Flush Toilets	Showers	Fire Pits	Firewood	Dump Station	Drinking Water	Pay Phone
Chinook R.V. Park	72	91	163	32 ft	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Cottonwood Campground	0	0	83	28 ft.	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Three Rivers Group Camp	0	0	10	28 ft.	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Table IV. Summary of Day Use Facilities Available at the Core Development Complex at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

Day Use Area	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelters	Change Rooms	Flush Toilets	Fire Pits	Firewood	Drinking Water	Pay Phone
Cottonwood	30	0	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Boulder Run	30	2	yes	no	no	no	yes	no
Windy Point	23	0	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Dam Viewpoint	0	0	no	no	no	no	no	no

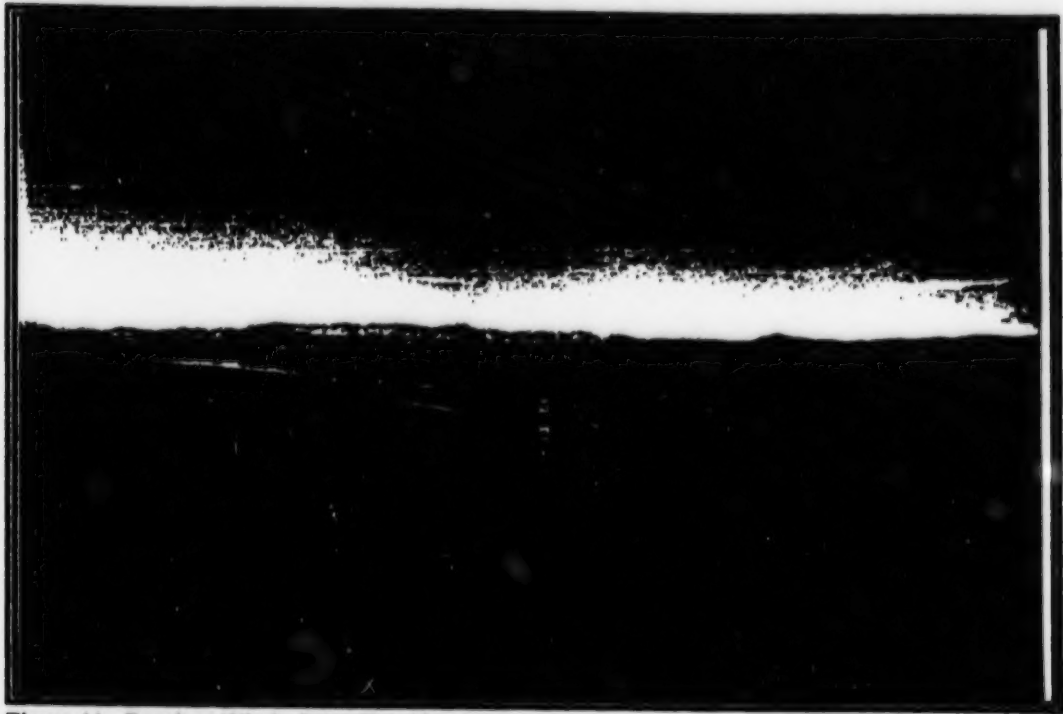


Figure 11. Beach at Windy Point Day Use Area

6.2.2 Peripheral Access Nodes on the Reservoir

- Island View Campground
- North-Fork Day Use
- Todd Creek Day Use
- South Cove Boat Launch

Figure 12. Peripheral Access Nodes at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

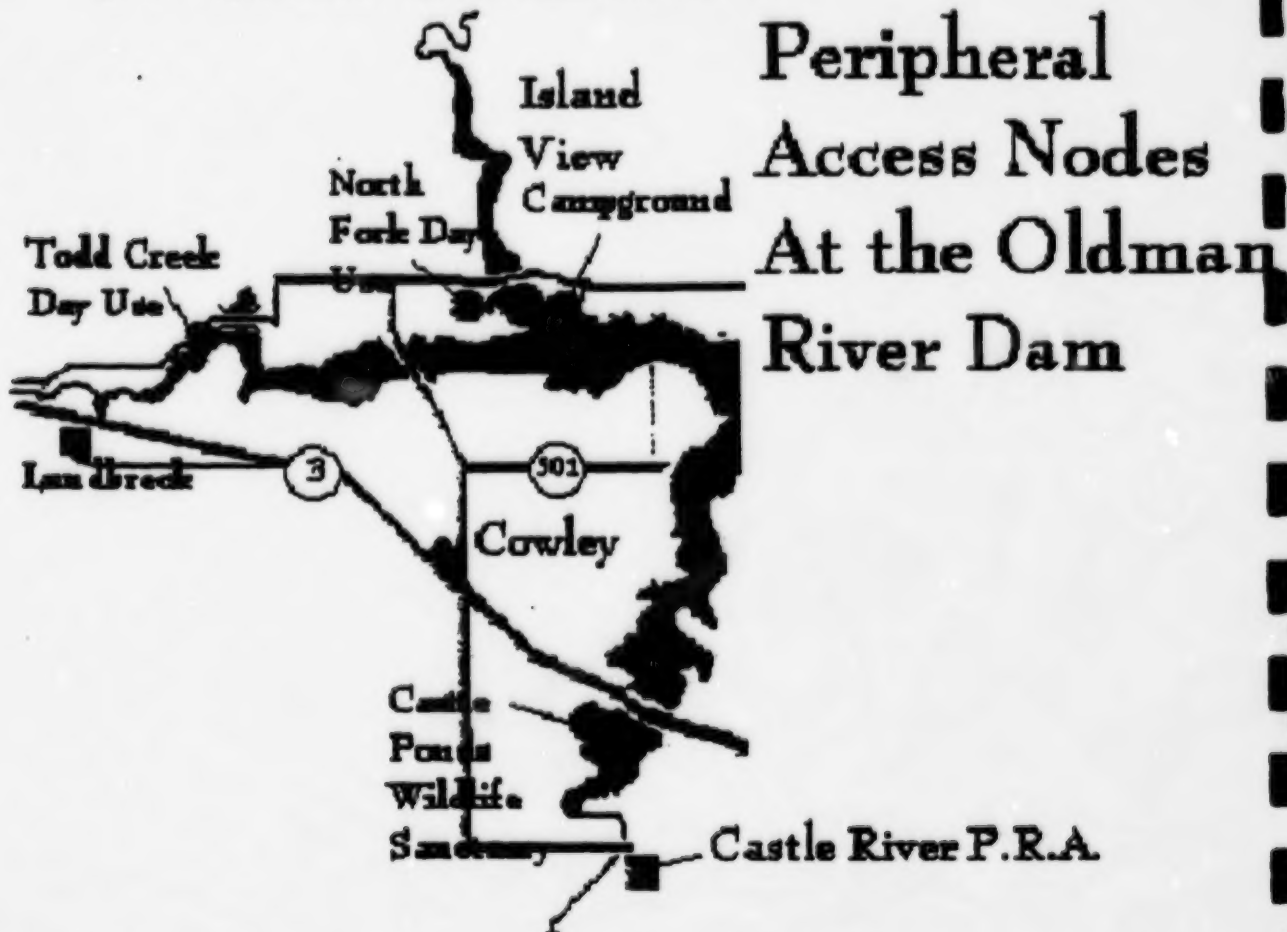


Table V. Summary of Camping Facilities Available at the Peripheral Access Nodes at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

Campground name	Total Sites	Max R.V. length	Flush Toilet	Shower	Fire Pits	Firewood	Dump Station	Drinking Water	Pay Phone
Island View	45	28 ft	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Table VI. Summary of Day Use Facilities Available at the Peripheral Access Nodes at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

Day Use Area	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelter	Change Rooms	Flush Toilets	Fire Pits	Firewood	Drinking Water	Pay Phone
North Fork	8	0	no	no	no	no	no	no
Island View	10	0	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Todd Creek	10	0	no	no	no	no	no	no
South Cove	2	0	no	no	no	no	no	no

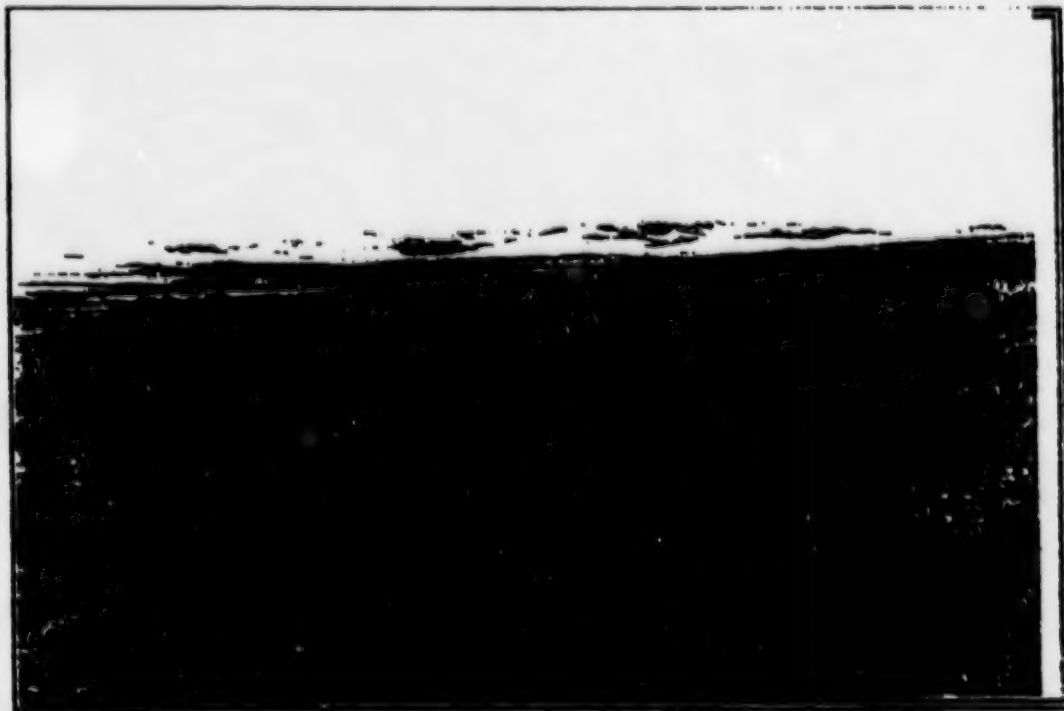


Figure 13. Island View P.R.A.: Sign at Entrance

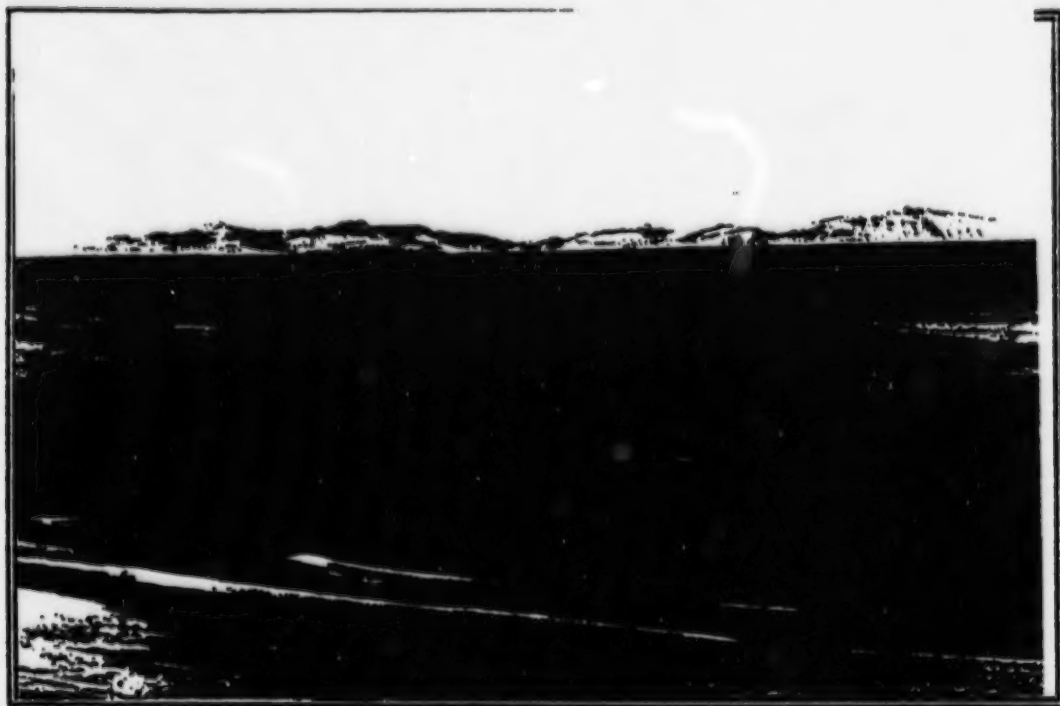


Figure 14. Island View P.R.A.



Figure 15. North Fork Day Use Area

6.2.3 Other Locations Upstream and Downstream

Castle River P.R.A.

Castle Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary

Maycroft P.R.A.

Oldman River P.R.A. (At Fort McLeod)

Table VII. Summary of camping facilities upstream and downstream of the reservoir.

Campground	Total Sites	Showers	Maximum R.V. Length	Flush Toilets	Fire Pits	Firewood	Drinking Water	Pay Phone
Castle River P.R.A.	22	no	28 ft.	no	yes	yes	pump	no
Maycroft P.R.A.	12	no	N/A	no	yes	no	pump	no
Oldman River P.R.A. @ Fort MacLeod	80	no	N/A	no	yes	yes	yes	no

Note: The Castle River P.R.A. information is based on pre-flood data and as yet has not been repaired (March 12, 1996). It is suspected that facts and figures pertaining to this site will be the same.

6.3 A Survey of Recreational Activities

A survey of recreational activities in the region available defining their location and present level of use at the OMRD and surrounding environs. Recreation Zoning is seen in the accompanying figure choice of zoning criteria is arbitrary but, it does cover what has been seen as the primary uses of the areas outlined.

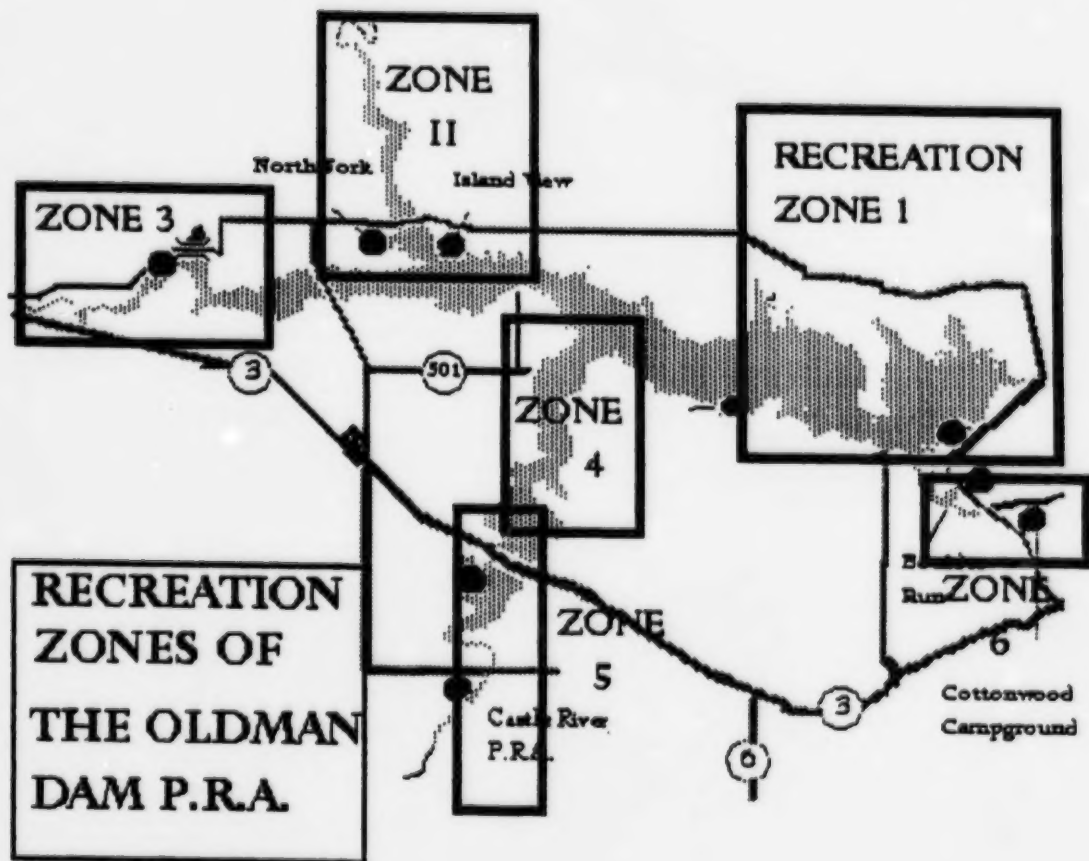


Figure 16. Recreation Zones

Table VIII. Recreation Zoning at the Oldman River Dam:
Referring to Previous Figure 16.

Zone #	Primary Recreation Activities
1	Windsurfing, Sailing, Boatlaunching, Picnicing, Swimming and Kite Flying. Mostly day use activities centred around the Windy Point Day Use Area.
2	Fishing, Waterskiing, Canoeing, Boating, and Camping. Centered around the Island View Campground and North Fork Boat Launch
3	Fishing, Canoeing, Picnicing. Centered around the Todd Creek Day Use Area on the Crowsnest River.
4	Waterskiing, Swimming, Fishing, and Diving. The mouth of the Castle River and Horseshoe Bay.
5	Wildlife Viewing, Camping, Fishing, Hiking. Castle River Wildlife Area and Castle River Campground.
6	Camping, Canoeing/Kayaking, Fishing, Future Interpretation. Core-Recreation Complex of Cottonwood Campground, Chinook R.V. Park, Boulder Run and Cottonwood Day Use Areas and Boat Launches (Canoe and Kayak)

6.3.1 Land Based Recreation

All Referring to Figure 16 and Table VIII.

Hiking

No specific recreational development has occurred for this activity although very short trails are found at sites like Island View and at Cottonwood. The riverine habitats do afford the most enjoyable nonstructured hiking opportunities in the area. The discontinuous access and the landbase does not afford any extended hiking trails. A site in Zone 5 extending into Zone 4 on the Castle River was intended for a short trail but, this was not realized.

Nature Interpretation

Watchable wildlife and like programs have not been completed at the P.R.A. Again the riverine habitat and some of the wetlands mitigation affords the best interpretive sites on the reservoir or on adjacent tributaries. Birdwatching, deer, and smaller prairie animals can be viewed from many locations on or near the reservoir. The prairie grassland affords a great opportunity for viewing wildflowers and other plant species. Zone 1 wetland mitigation and Zone 5 Castle River Wildlife Area is the most likely candidates.

Picnicing

A variety of day-use facilities exist for day outings for families. Sites such as Windy Point, North Fork, and Todd Creek afford the best locations for picnicing at or near the reservoir. This type of use is random and very weather dependent but, it allows the users to test out an area prior to a possible extended visitation. Nature Interpretation and Hiking are also activities undertaken by picnickers. Picnicing at day use areas are available at all Recreation Zones with the exception of Zone 4.

Sight-seeing

Another day-use activity sight-seeing is again a random activity dependent on the weather. The strike contrasts of the landscape afford the sight-seer with a great deal of different "things to see" in the area. This activity has the possibility to overlap with the aforementioned activities. All Recreation Zones facilitate this activity with varying degrees of scenic beauty.

Camping

Camping as an activity is the primary development user group that is the focus of the development. A variety of camping facilities exist with a large scope of different levels of development and user directed theme. Cottonwood, Island View, Chinook, Castle River and the Oldman River P.R.A. at Fort MacLeod are the primary sites. Their degree of use and facilities available have already been mentioned or will be seen elsewhere in the document. Zone 3 and Zone 4 does not have camping facilities available to the user.

Driving Tours

This activity can be seen in many different forms. Cassete tape guided tours, commercial tours, or random selfguided visitation are just a few. Commercial tours have occurred in the past but, are no longer operational (ie. Via Sawss). Tape guided tours exist in the region but, have not been realised at this site specifically. No Zone is specific to this recreational pursuit.

6.3.2 Water Based Recreation

Swimming

This activity is very temperature dependent in some cases. Swimming is one of the most important activities afforded by a body of water for the recreational user. However, it is apparent that the reservoir due to it's characteristics is cold for much of the year with only slight warming occuring in the middle of summer. Windy Point has a beach for swimming and the level of use it has achieved in the past cannot be assessed currently. Riverine habitats do at times supply warmer water temperatures then does a large water body but, it has been stated that due to drawdown on the reservoir the water temperatures downstream will be somewhat colder then normal (WBCL, 1987a).

Zone 1 is a specifically designed swimming area but, Zone 4 has been used by local youths and adults as a swimming area.

Beachcombing

An activity such as this is much more common to ocean environments but, it may be participated on freshwater bodies. Due to aforementioned affects of drawdown it is anticipated that there will often be times that exposed shoreline will be somewhat muddy and will not afford easy access to someone. Nature interpretation and wildlife viewing may be associated with an activity such as this. No Zone is specifically favored for this activity.

Boating

Associated with skiing or pleasure boating a large body of water such as this affords a great deal of opportunities in this activity. Again it cannot be stressed enough the wind affect on recreational activities on the reservoir with safety being a prime concern. It has be indicated to me by a large variety of sources that much of the water skiing and boating occurs in the wind protected arms of the entering tributaries. These areas have experienced a great deal of traffic at times of warm weather due to the unfavorable conditions found on the main body of water. Conflicting recreation activities may occur with boating due to the most favorable lake fishing occuring on many of the same areas. Safety and boating should be a prime concern due to this potential hazard and involves a great deal of patrolling and public information. Although Zones 1, 2, and 4 are the primary favorable boating sites many areas on the resevoir may be used for this activity depending on the intensity of the wind.

SportFishing

This at present is one of the most prevalent activity on the reservoir or on adjacent streams. The sustainability of the reservoir fishery is uncertain but, it is anticipated to be leveling off in the very near future. As mentioned previously however the mouths of the Castle, Crowsnest and Oldman Rivers as they enter the Reservoir maintain the most favorable longterm sportfishing opportunities. The rivers themselves have some of the best fishing opportunities in Alberta and are important assets to the P.R.A. Intergration and cooperation between Fish and Wildlife and Park Rangers will enable the effective management of the fisheries to attain a sustainable resource. Zones 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 all are fishing access nodes Zone 3, 4 5 and 6 will most likely sustain the most productive fisheries.

Sailing/Windsurfing

Probably the best opportunity in all of Alberta the eastern extent of the dam favors both activities. The average windspeeds attained on the reservoir are greater then some of the best locations in the United States and elsewhere in Canada. These opportunities are utilized by a small portion of the population but, their promotion allows for an increase in the diverse recreation occurring at the reservoir. Longterm sustainability of this activity is ensured given the present facilities. Although much of the resevoirs main body can be used for this activity Zone 1 is the centre of these activities.

Diving

An activity pursued by a somewhat small portion of the population this is another diversifying recreational opportunity at the reservoir. A unique program of underwater archaeology exists on the reservoir that allows divers to participate in activities that cater to education and research in this field. Although the pursuit is utilized by a small portion of the population it may be of interest to the nondiver just for education sake. Zone 4 contains the underwater archaeology activities.

Canoeing and Kayaking

The reservoir itself is not very favorable to canoeing due again to the ever present wind. River mouths afford the safest and most pleasureable canoeing experience of the users. Handlaunch sites occur throughout the development: South Cove, North Fork and Todd Creek. These allow easy access to the canoeist to the water. Kayaking has prospered due to the Boulder Run development downstream from the dam. This kilometre long kayak/canoe course provides whitewater eddies and pools for competitive kayakers. This site also allows for access to extended downstreamtrips. Canoeing is accessed by hand launches at Zone 2, 3, 5, and 6. The best canoeing is most likely Zone 6 and at Zone 3. Zone 6 is specifically geared towards Kayaking.

6.3.3 Winter Recreation

Snowshoeing

The effects of blowing wind and chinooks due not allow for the distribution of snow required for an activity such as this. Lack of extensive trails and few tree covered areas does not allow for the establishment of a sustainable amount of snow required of this activity. If conditions do allow the activity it would be very infrequent and it is anticipated that it would only a small number of users. No Zones favored.

Ice-sailing

This activity is participated by a small number of people in Alberta. Ice conditions however, may be unfavorable due to the affects of wind and reservoir drawdown. Wind cracks, cracks from drawdown, and thin spots caused by water currents will create hazardous ice conditions most of the time (WBCL, 1987a). No Zones favored.

Ice Fishing

As seen in Ice-sailing the characteristics of reservoir ice may not create safe ice conditions for the users. Longterm sustainability of the reservoir fisheries is also questionable. Areas near the entering rivers have seen many icefisherperson during favorable ice conditions but, these are infrequent. Parts of Zone 3 have been seen to be used by icefisherpersons.

Cross Country Skiing

As seen under snowshoeing the inability of the landbase to support favorable snow depths will hinder this activity most of the time. No Zones favored.

Snowmobiling

As with the previously mentioned snow conditions this activity will not be feasible at the site. Due to the designation of the land base as a Provincial Recreation Area snowmobiles are not allowed in the area. No Zones favored.

Downhill Skiing

Although the site has no downhill skiing the proximity of the site to Westcastle, Powder Keg, and Fernie is an asset. This proximity is also favorable to the aforementioned winter recreation activities.

6.4 Signage Suggestions

Signage suggestions of the region directing to the recreational opportunities at the OMRD P.R.A. and associated recreational opportunities.

Table IX. Sign Suggestions Referring to Figure 17 That Follows

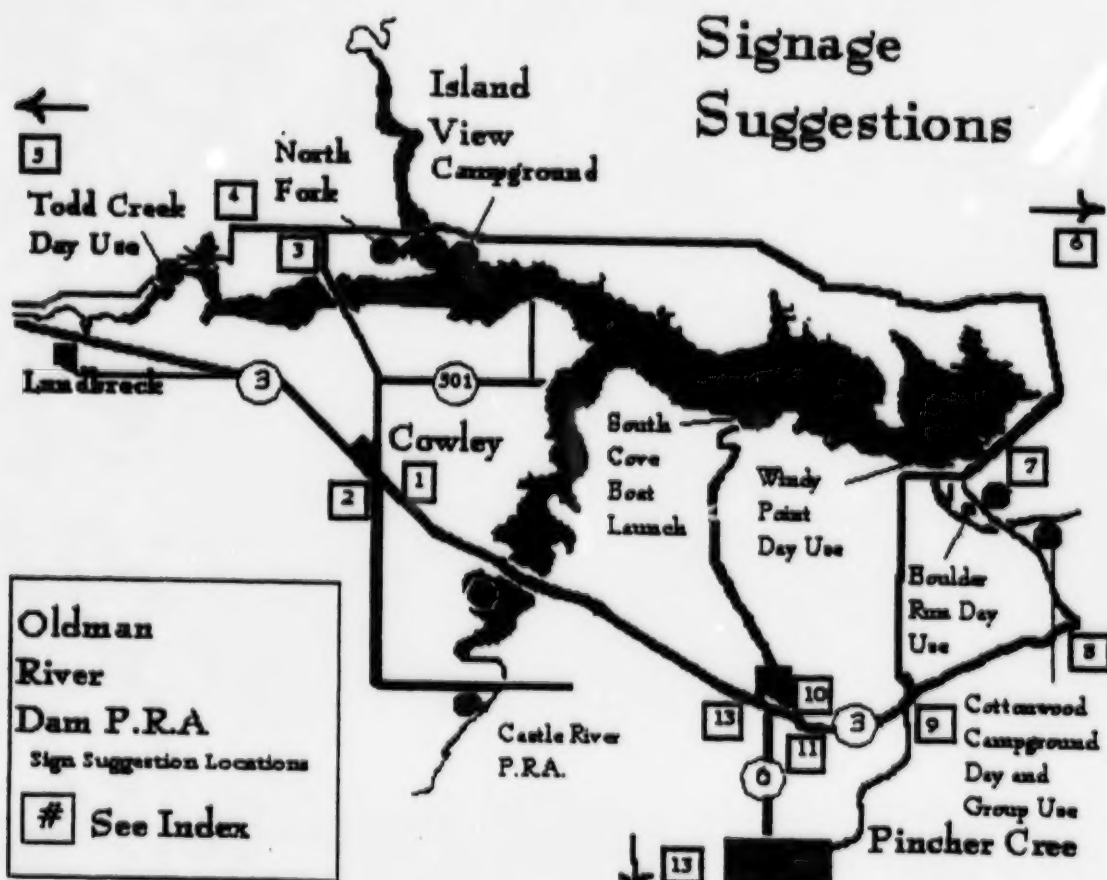
Reference #	Recommendation
1	Westbound on #3. A sign that describes the names and facilities at the Peripheral Access nodes on the Reservoir: Island View, North Fork, Todd Creek. As well for the other direction a more descript sign for Castle River Campground and Wildlife Area for Wildlife Watchers.
2	Same as Reference #1 covering eastbound traffic.
3	A sign describing the Todd Creek Day Use Area, North Fork Day Use and Island View Campground.
4	A sign that points to Todd Creek Day Use Area
5	On Highway 22. Describing all of the facilities at the reservoir.
6	Near Head Smashed in describing all of the facilities at the reservoir possibly taking advantage of improvement of road 785.
7	A general map of the area. A touristy type display that can be accessed by a roadside turnout or the like. Detailing all of the facilities at the reservoir. Also in this area increase the size of signage to Chinook, Cottonwood, and Windy Point. They are too small and may present an image of a low quality campground facility to the new visitor.

Reference #	Recommendation
8	More descript sign describing all of Cottonwoods facilities, Chinook and Windy Point. Maybe even use the term "Core Recreation Complex"
9	A sign with names on it and not just symbols. This is confusing to the visitor and may not be seen.
10	South Cove directional sign through Pincher Station.
12	Detailed facility sign of the Oldman River Dam for people heading either east or west. Again using names of facilities coupled with symbols would be more inviting.
13	Prior to entering Pincher Creek on Highway #6. A descriptive facility, distance and direction sign to the Oldman River Dam facilities.

Of note with much of the signage the lettering on signage at present is either very small or the use of symbols may be confusing to a first time visitor. All of the names of the facilities are inviting to the first time user and may draw more attention to those that are "travelling through" eg. Chinook R.V. Park, Cottonwood Campground, Island View Campground and Windy Point Day Use Area all have names that may invite the user to the area.

Sign suggestion #7 would be very helpful to the recreationalist. By detailing facilities available at both the core recreation area as well as at the peripheral access sites one can find the best location for their recreation. Such a sign can outline facilities, activities, and prices at the sites. Along with such a display there can be other user information that will aid in the enjoyment of the sites.

Figure 17. Signage Suggestions for the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.
Refer to Table for Suggestions per Number and Locations.



Recreation Activities and Facility Use At Present: Maintenance 7.0

This section outlines the use of the facilities and the activities existing at the Oldman Reservoir. Camping statistics and other information will be provided regarding the present use at the site.

7.1 Campground User Statistics

Post 1992 Visitor Camping Nights Statistics

Note: Please recall the flood of 1995 caused the immediate closure of the Cottonwood Campground, Castle River, and Oldman River P.R.A. at Fort MacLeod.

Table X. Campsite Nights for Selected Sites in the Crowsnest District.

Occupied Campsite Nights for 1992 for the Crowsnest District													
	Cotton-wood	Chinook	Island View	Castle River	Fort Macleod	Maycroft	Beavris Lake	Lundbrock Falls	Island Lake	Chain Lakes	Willow Creek	Polson Outpost	Payson Lake
April				0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	37	0
May				19	235	0	360	1117	21	185	379	271	0
June				36	368	9	420	1870	92	281	370	463	117
July	391			53	682	34	738	3042	292	394	776	652	235
August	199			84	442	35	816	3139	184	435	792	456	214
September	76			16	61	14	139	568	51	198	152	247	85

Occupied Campsite Nights for 1993 for the Crowsnest District													
	Cotton-wood	Chinook	Island View	Castle River	Fort Macleod	Maycroft	Beavris Lake	Lundbrock Falls	Island Lake	Chain Lakes	Willow Creek	Polson Outpost	Payson Lake
April	31	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
May	340	0	22	28	243	3	430	342	62	338	367	189	394
June	352	0	82	42	459	15	489	680	99	303	308	231	376
July	682	45	115	76	797	10	893	1073	242	470	788	410	294
August	720	88	199	132	731	28	921	1098	169	523	776	455	509
September	438	69	215	45	80	6	262	282	46	308	233	325	212

Occupied Campsite Nights for 1994 for the Crowsnest District													
	Cotton-wood	Chinook	Island View	Castle River	Fort Macleod	Beavris Maycroft	Lundbrock Lake	Island Falls	Chain Lakes	Willow Creek	Polson Outpost	Payson Lake	
April	73	0	24	15	0	0	7	0	0	36	40	82	13
May	336	38	95	38	213	7	338	339	31	236	265	369	203
June	530	35	188	100	309	11	650	722	55	482	424	564	313
July	1131	159	358	164	599	38	1215	1332	196	786	1092	523	409
August	736	96	246	103	381	36	995	1132	136	655	623	386	253
September	419	45	228	56	147	18	306	343	54	472	219	321	171

Occupied Campsite Nights for 1995 for the Crowsnest District						
Month	Cotton-wood	Chinook	Island View	Castle River	Fort Macleod	Maycroft
April	24	0	0	0	0	0
May	283	35	73	16	125	7
June	74	76	69	4	11	3
July	0	147	167	0	436	40
August	0	161	178	0	510	52
September	0	0	0	0	180	0

7.2 Comment Card Survey

The complete content of comment cards for 1994 and 1995 is found in Appendix II. Comment card satisfaction is found summarized in the following two tables.

Table XI. User Satisfaction Summary Based on Comment Card Summaries From 1994

Topic	Location					Totals	Response
	Cottonwood	Chinook	Island View	Old Man	Castle		
Poor Value	26		1	3	1	29	Negative
						2	Positive
Cleanliness of Sites	6	2	1	1	1	11	Negative
	1				1	2	Positive
Cleanliness of Facilities	1		1			2	Negative
	2	2				4	Positive
Staff Bouquets	3		1	1	1	6	Positive
Firewood Quality	2					2	Negative
						0	Positive
Registration	5		1			6	Negative
Roads		1		1		2	Negative
Signage	3	1				4	Negative
Facilities and Things to do	32	8	8		2	50	Negative
	6					6	Positive
General Negative	2		1		1	4	Negative
						0	
General Bouquets	10	4	1			15	Positive
						0	
Quiet	2	1				3	Positive
Totals	101	19	15	6	7	148	

Table XII. User Satisfaction Summary Based on
Comment Card Summaries From 1995

Topic	Cottonwood	Chinook	Island View	Old Man	Maycroft	Totals	Response
Poor Value		1		1		2	Negative
						0	Positive
Cleanliness of Sites			3	2	1	6	Negative
	1	3		2		6	Positive
Cleanliness of Facilities			1	1	2	4	Negative
				1		1	Positive
Staff Bouquets				13		13	Positive
Firewood						0	Negative
Quality						0	Positive
Registration			1	1		2	Negative
Roads						0	Negative
Signage						0	Negative
Facilities and Things to do	2	5	4	2	2	15	Negative
	1			1		2	Positive
General		1		2		3	Negative
Negative						0	
General	1	3		7		11	Positive
Bouquets						0	
Quiet				1		1	Positive
Total	5	13	0	24	5	66	

7.3 Creel Census Information

Fishing in the reservoir and the surrounding waters has been monitored by Fish and Wildlife Technicians (creel census surveys).

The information for creel census is beyond a recreation survey such as this. The knowledge that ongoing monitoring of fisheries productivity is essential to the recreation fisheries at the P.R.A. Upstream presence of blue ribbon fisheries will always be anticipated to be a productive recreational venue. A consistent monitoring of this valued resource will allow for the maintenance of this very important opportunity to the users. It has previously been mentioned that it is anticipated that the reservoir based fisheries will eventually decline. However, due to the unique nature of three rivers entering the reservoir the mouths of these tributaries will be anticipated to present a longterm and viable fishing opportunity (John Mahoney, 1996, Personal Communications). With censusing fishing regulations in the prescribed area a sustainable product will endure.

It must be stressed here, as it will be later in the report, that information from the Creel Census Surveys should be available to Park Managers in order to best address changes and facility operations.

7.4 Special Events at the Oldman Dam P.R.A.

This is a summary of some of the special events that have occurred at the reservoir since 1992. These events have proved to be successful in the diversification of the recreation activities occurring at the reservoir. Success in events such as these are very reliant on volunteers as much as parks staff. Rewarding of volunteers for efforts in special event programming will perpetuate a healthy mutually beneficial relationship. A big determinant on the frequency of special events is the associated liability insurance required to hold these events. This is not a concern for larger activities but, it may prove disabling to smaller organizations or individuals.

7.4.1 Children of the Wind Kite Festival

This annual special event occurs in the last days of July at Windy Point Day Use area on the Reservoir. The key theme to this event is the promotion of the Pincher Creek area and the infamous winds of Southern Alberta. It is a unique local event that is hosted in cooperation with Parks and the Children of the Wind Association. Professional kite fliers attend the even flying stunt kites for demonstrations. Displays, concessionaires ect all are part of the event. It is family oriented with participation from local entertainers, volunteers, and government agencies. This event has proved successful due to the efforts of volunteers and of parks staff and will prove a great event for the future.

7.4.2 Windsurfing Competitions

Due to the World Class winds associated with the windsurfing at the Oldman River Dam the Alberta Windsurfing Association has held a series of events at Windy Point. The events occur throughout the summer at the site. This has proved to be a successful diversification of the park utilization.

7.5 Service Clubs and other User Organizations

Special users groups have become intergral recreational users of the reservoir and the surrounding area. A relationship with these groups has grown between area managers and representatives. Continued fostering of this communication will promote the future success of the Oldman Dam P.R.A. as a destination holiday recreation venue.

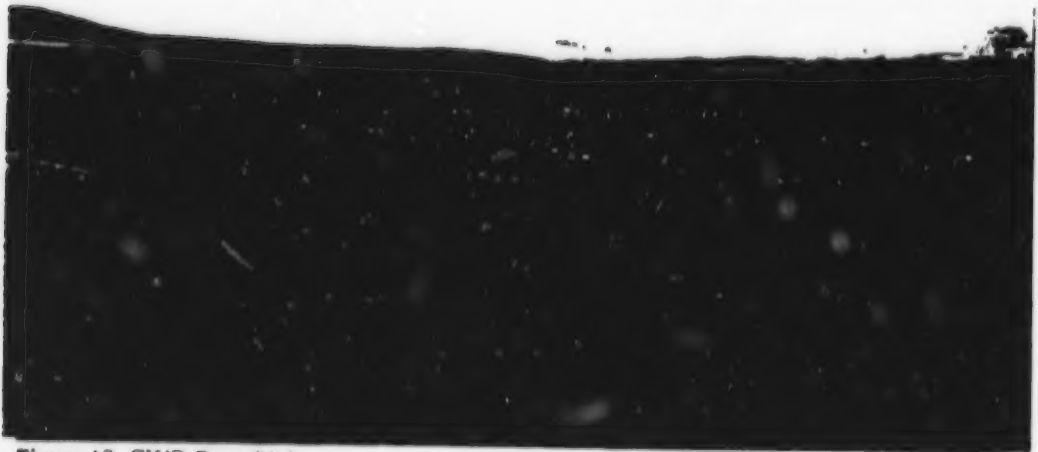


Figure 18. CWR Boat Club

7.5.1 CWR Boat Club

This is a private sector recreational facility. It is a facility that holds a lease on crown land that allows people to park their recreational vehicles in a semipermanent situation. The site is independent of the other recreational management on the reservoir. This is an example of private sector creation of recreational infrastructure and recreational opportunities.

7.5.2 Southern Alberta Water Sciences Society: Sawss

This nonprofit organization of volunteers that is focused on the fostering scientific research and public education in the water based industry, agriculture and ecology of Southern Alberta. The organization has proposed the development of an interpretive centre: Waterworks near the damsite. The facility would contain exhibits and audiovisual aids for the purpose of public education and interpretation. "It is the intent of the organization to establish a creative and dynamic interpretive program that combines valuable scientific research with the interests of the public."

The eventual development of this facility will possibly draw in tourists to the location further increasing the recreational activities at the site. Support and cooperation with this organization will prove to be a valuable asset to the recreation opportunities the P.R.A. can provide the patrons.

7.6 Local Special Sites

Although not part of the recreation development itself these local and regional sites of interest broaden the recreational potential the recreation area can provide the user. Cooperation and information exchange with these special sites will build on the potential visitation of the recreation area.

7.6.1 Rock and Fossil Museum

This site is a small business venture by some local persons. It provides the visitor with examples of gemstone carvings, rare and unusual fossils, viewing mineral specimens, shells, coral, and viewing lapidary work. The venue charges a nominal entrance fee and has been hailed as a great rainy day outing for the family.

7.6.2 Heritage Acres

This recreation venue provides the visitor with a viewing of antique farming machinery and crystal artwork. It is a great nearby family outing for the recreational user.

7.6.3 Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump

This nearby Unesco World Heritage site provides the visitor with a world class interpretive outing. Being so near this is a great facility by which the Recreation Area can draw users. It is hoped that improvement of Highway 785 will draw more and more users as time goes on given appropriate signage and information to potential visitors.

7.6.4 Frank Slide and other Mining Related Historic Sites

Another regional historic site this again broadens the potential heritage appreciation that can be afforded by the recreation area. Cooperation and information with facility operators may draw increased visitation to the Recreation Area.

7.6.5 Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park

This is another Unesco World Heritage Site. A regional recreation destination drawing on the visitation of this site will increase usage. Signage concerns and information exchange is an important factor in this.

Resource Based Recreation at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. : Enhancement 8.0

Recreation that is dependent on the natural resources at or near the recreation area. These activities may require a high level of regulation given their intensive nature. Management of resource based recreation requires a more aggressive management protocol rather than what can be seen in more passive recreational activities.

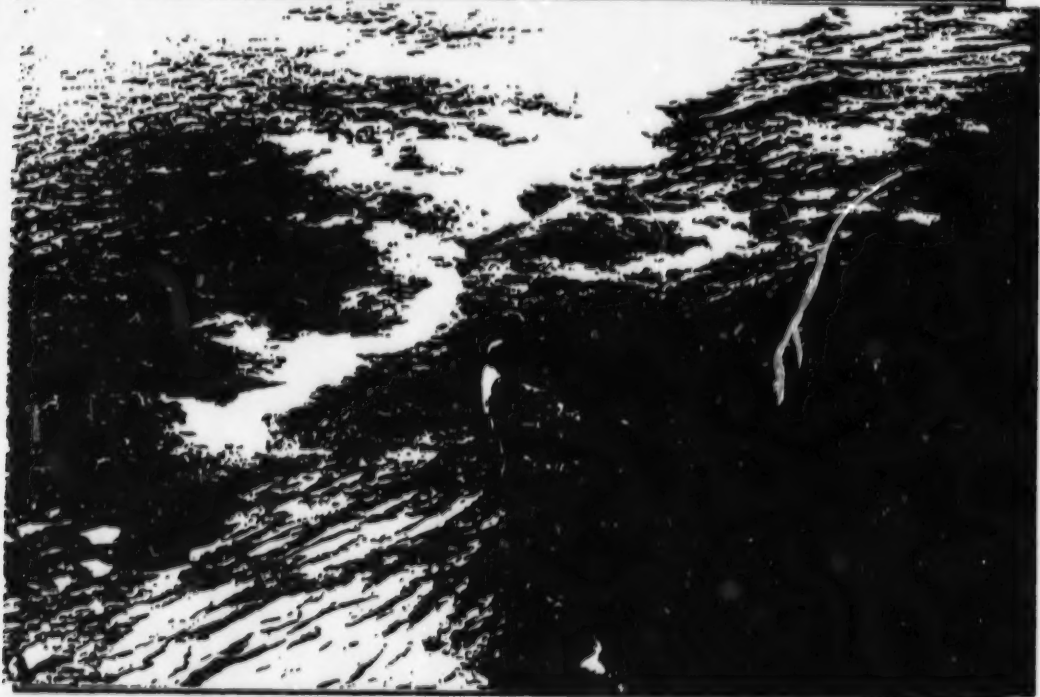


Figure 19 Early Spring Fishing Downstream From the Headworks of the Dam

8.1 Fishing: Enhancement

This activity at present is one of the most important recreational activities the area has to offer. Creating a viable fisheries for the future is a very important goal. Monitoring of mitigation programs by Fisheries Technicians or the like will allow the sustainability of this resource in the streams adjacent to the reservoir. Intergration and cooperation among Parks staff, Fish and Wildlife Officers, and Fisheries Technicians and Biologists will allow for a concerted effort in monitoring. Much of the recreational use up until now has been based on the fisheries at the site. Due to the wind on the waterbody itself as was noted earlier the fishing on the reservoir has been heaviest at the mouthes of rivers. In conjunction with this area of the most intense fishing pressures the calmness associated with these areas puts waterskiers and recreational boaters in conflict with use type. Public education and regular patrolling of these areas will ensure that this potential conflict does not get too severe.

It is essential that Creel Census information remains accessible to Park employees and managers. This will allow the better management of facilities and recreational activities at the reservoir.

8.2 Hunting: Enhancement

The designation of the OMRD as a Provincial Recreation Area facilitates the ability of the park to broaden the scope of resource based recreation at the reservoir to include a very regulated seasonal hunting of deer. Reasons behind opening of hunting access must be solidified and concrete in case of public opposition and inquiries. Public education and a low key solicitation of the hunting on Recreation Area land is essential to success of such an undertaking. A census decision was reached during a meeting of some interested government agency members.

It was found during initial meetings on February 12, 1996 that:

- ▶ There is a lack of ability to enforce the present park border from the discharge of firearms.
- ▶ This area was hunted prior to the building of the dam and because the goal of recreation mitigation is to "replace or maintain prior recreational activities that may have been displaced by the Reservoir" allowing recreational hunting would further support this mandate.
- ▶ Issuance of discharge permits would be limited to deer with none issued for waterfowl.
- ▶ Issuance of discharge permits are subject to an individual already having a license and following the rules and regulations in the Hunting Synopsis for the Wildlife Management Unit.
- ▶ Facility areas, and wildlife control areas would be excluded from the permit.
- ▶ On the permit it would also be stressed that when access requires crossing of privately held lands (or grazing/haying leases) landowner permission is still required.

It was thus concluded that it would be possible to issue discharge permits to holders of deer hunting licenses under the set of guidelines mentioned. If the issuance occurs it will be monitored for its success in the coming seasons.

The Oldman Dam P.R.A. is found in Wildlife Management Unit 305. The following table outlines the seasons for 1995 ungulate hunting this may change for 1996 but, it is here to illustrate that hunting recreational users will not conflict with other users. Notably however, the archery season does overlap with some of the other recreational users.

Table XIII. Summary of 1995 Ungulate Hunting Seasons for WMU 305.

Species	Type	General Season	Archery Season
Whitetailed Deer	Antlered	October 30 to November 25	September 6 to October 28
	Antlerless	October 30 to November 11	September 6 to October 28
Mule Deer	Antlered (3point or larger)	October 30 to November 25	September 6 to October 28
	Antlerless	October 30 to November 25	September 6 to October 28

8.3 Heritage Appreciation / Interpretation: Enhancement

This involves the interpretation, visitor education, and cooperative learning of recreational users of the facilities. As was previously mentioned local historic and special sites provide a broad base of heritage appreciation opportunities. More specifically at the reservoir key features will allow for the development of lucrative opportunities for heritage appreciation and interpretation.

Grasslands in Alberta are protected only in a marginal sense and the shortgrass fescue of the region increases the importance of this P.R.A. in the Parks system. The park has many natural features that will enable the public to gain an appreciation for the grassland ecosystem (short grass fescue, prairie wildlife, native historic sites, farming, and bird or wildflower photography and viewing). As well the aesthetic qualities of the reservoir and the surrounding land lends nicely to the creation of tourist destination hiking and interpretation programming. Utilization of these and other resources will allow the park users to better enjoy their visit and to gain an appreciation for the natural and historic resources the P.R.A. has to offer.

Another favorable heritage appreciation project would occur in cooperation with future SAWSS interpretive programming. This cooperation will allow for program delivery on possible themes such as: irrigation, dams, water ecology and biology and the role of water in Alberta.

Water Based Recreation: Enhancement 9.0

A site by site survey of water based recreation enhancement at the facilities already in place.

9.1 Boating: Enhancement

Four primary boating access sites exist on the Reservoir. Improvements or enhancements of these facilities would enable a greater user satisfaction of the recreation opportunities facilitated by the reservoir.

A general enhancement of all of the boatlaunchs facilities would be to provide users with an information board near the boatlaunch with weekend weather reports. The weekend weather can be accessed via the internet and by phoning Environment Canada. Safe boating information and other safety oriented literature would be available on an information on a board such as this.

9.1.1 Windy Point: Boating Enhancement

The boatlaunch at this site provides the primary access to the reservoir from sites located at the core recreation complex area. Directionally, the boat launch faces into what would be the main direction of the prevailing wind which is a primary safety concern at this site. No realistic measures can be undertaken to lessen this effect of the wind other then providing public information regarding this matter (information board). Rip-rap and other shoreline hazards have made this an unfavourable boatlaunch to users. No

Windy Point Day Use Area

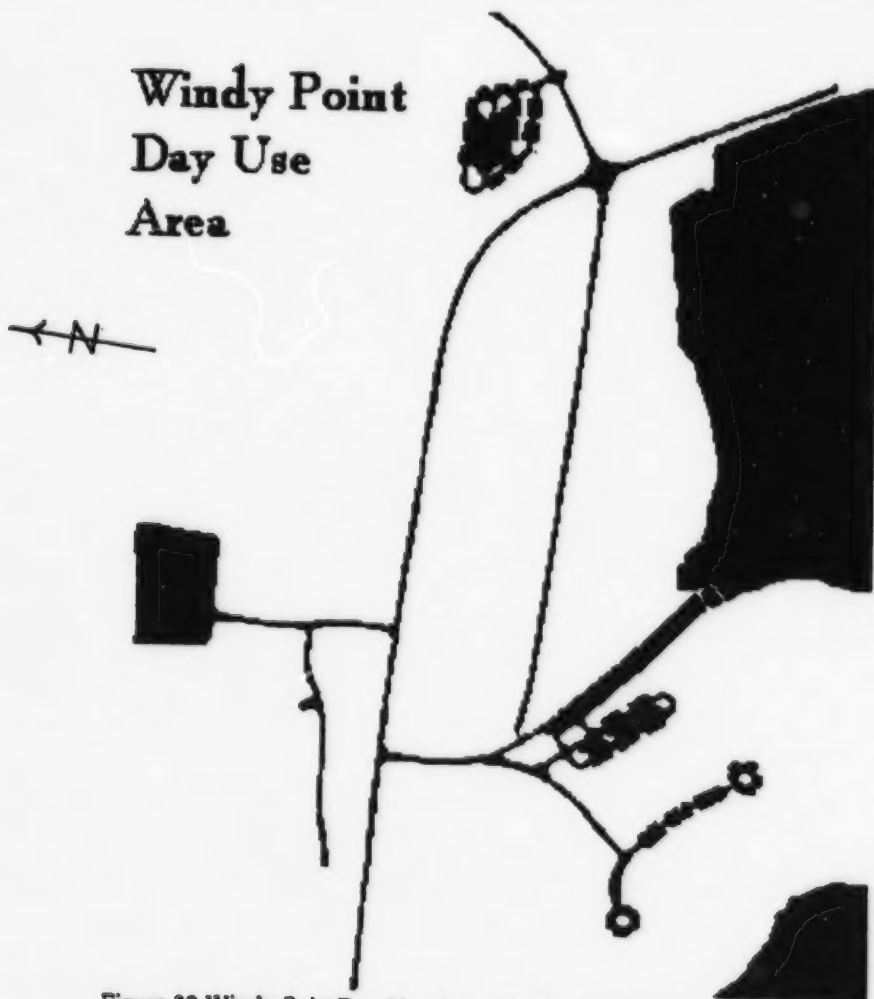


Figure 20 Windy Point Day Use Area: North is Approximately Left of the Figure. Black Areas Denote Roads or Water. To the Left is the Swimming Area and to the Right the Boat Launch.

enhancements where seen at the site other than the monitoring of water levels to ensure the boatlaunch is useable at reservoir levels and the dock is out far enough during drawdowns.

9.1.2 Island View Campground: Boating Enhancement

This has been reported to be a very busy access point for the boater. Due to it's location day use access and longterm users have been noted to conflict over accessibility. Needs of increased parking facilities and accessibility have been suggested by users of Island View. There is a small portion of land that is available for parking at the entrance of the boat launch and facility improvement may be warranted. Due to the shelter created by the location of this boatlaunch it allows for one of the safest access nodes on the main water body. Therefore, it is an important boating access node and facility enhancements such as a larger parking facility should occur. Docking improvements have also been suggested but, due to the effect of reservoir drawdown may be difficult.

Figure 21. Island View P.R.A. To the Left is North. Black is Water and Roads.



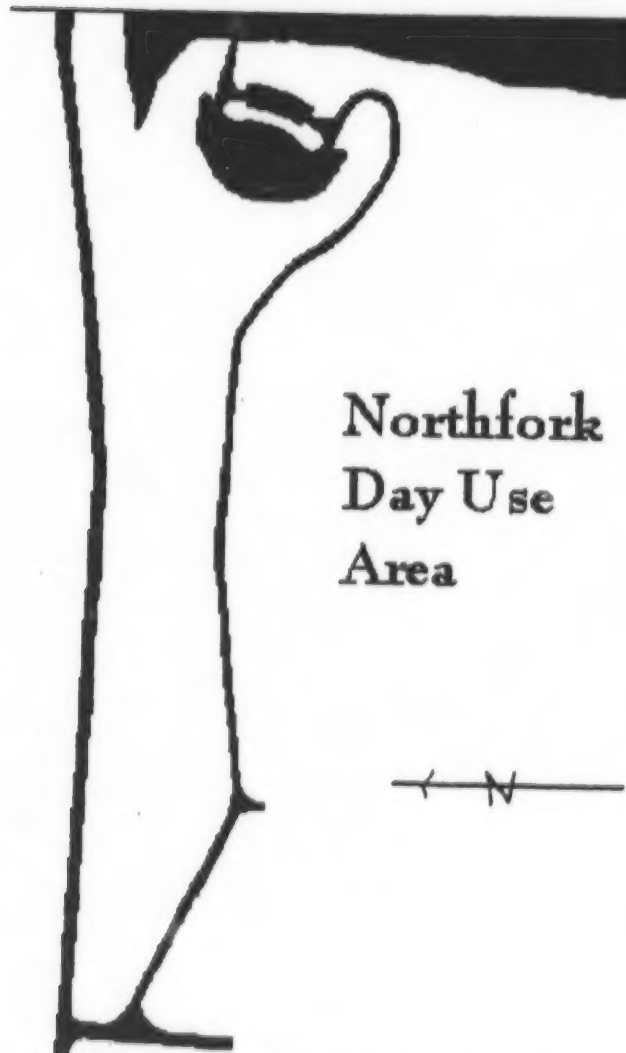


Figure 22. North Fork Hand Boat Launch and Day Use Area

9.1.3 North Fork Day Use: Boating Enhancement

In order to absorb the day use pressures at the Island View boat launch the improvement of boat launching facilities at North Fork would be able to increase accessibility. North Fork as mentioned earlier in the document is a sheltered cove allowing for one of the better locations for water skiing on the reservoir. Coupled with the favorable fishing opportunities the present facility development (ie. Day Use Area and Hand Launch) does not adequately address user needs. Improvements such as: increased parking space, a large concrete based boat launch (for trailer launching), and the possibility of dual launches for hand launching and for trailer launching. These improvements will deter the strain of day users on Island View while providing for a safe access node to the reservoir. An information board is also suggested for this site.

9.1.4 South Cove Day Use: Boating Enhancement

This location due to wind and other factors does not allow for any large scale improvements. Other than signage and information as to this being another access node there are no enhancements in terms of boating that could be determined.

9.1.5 Todd Creek Day Use: Boating Enhancement

This site adequately addresses hand launching onto the Crownsnest River. No facility improvements were seen to be required. Due to season changes in the Crownsnest River flow the degree of use at this location is very sporadic. Road improvements and signage as to the location would inform users of this location. An information board would be a useful addition.

9.1.6 Boulder Run Day Use: Boating Enhancement

This is an intensively developed site for the recreational kayaker and canoeist. It more than amply addresses the boating needs of the users. As previously addressed an information board would be a valuable asset to the user.

Boulder Run Day User Area



Figure 23. Boulder Run Day Use Area. To the Right is North. Black Denotes Roads or Water.

9.1.7 Cottonwood Day Use Area: Boating Enhancement

The hand launch site facilitates the boater with access to canoeing/kayaking opportunities downstream from the reservoir. The site itself does not require any large scale improvements. To increase the recreational enjoyment acquisition of land downstream will be addressed later in the creation portion of the document. Again the information board idea would be useable here.

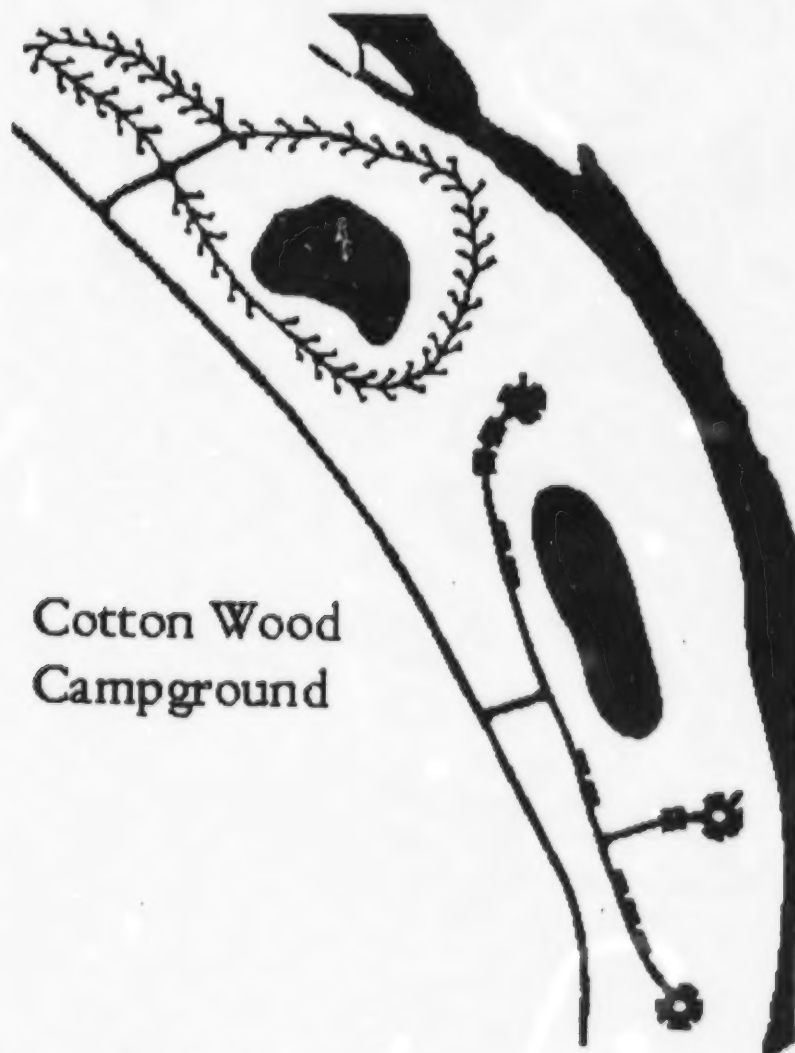


Figure 24. Cottonwood Campground and Day Use Area: North is to the Right. Black Denotes Water and Roadways. Boat Launch is at the Bottom of the Figure and Campground is at the Top.

9.2 Windsurfing/Sailing: Enhancement

The enhancement of recreational windsurfing and sailing on the reservoir. The only access node that caters to this recreation is at Windy Point. Enhancement of opportunities here would be difficult due to the low impact nature of this type of recreation. A system for securing boards, an information board, and the continued marking of hazards are the only suggestions. Monitoring water levels changes seasonally and the ability of the beach area to provide access will ensure the viability of this recreational site.

Land Based Recreation: Enhancement 10.0

Allocation of Resources Based on User Statistics

Based on the statistics of the Campgrounds the enhancement or improvement of sites can be seen. Contributions to total user statistics can be seen as examples of user satisfaction.

Table XIV. Contribution to Total User Statistics by Sites Managed by the Oldman Dam P.R.A. (Primary Facilities Only)

Year	1993	1994	1995
Park			
Chinook	6 %	8.04 %	33.17%
Island view	18.8 %	24.03 %	38.56%
Cottonwood	75.2 %	67.93 %	28.27%

Note: Again 1995 flooding resulted in the closure of Cottonwood Campground and thus changed the results shown.

As can be seen in the preceeding table it is apparent that Cottonwood Campground is the primary camping facility at the reservoir. Island View contributes a marginal amount to the total Campsite Nights at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. Thus, if fiscal restraints dictate a reduction in available services Cottonwood campground should be preserved and receive the main attention with Chinook receiving service reductions.

In the following suggestions note Appendix I information on potential visitation and actual visitation. Although the variables that dictate the visitation rates are numerous the approaching of these potential rates by facility enhancement will enable a more fiscally sound operation.

10.1 Barrier Free Recreation Sites: Enhancement

Of any of the potential enhancements that would occur at the recreation area this should become a primary concern in the very near future. Providing recreational users that are disabled or physically challenged with barrier free access to facilities is a responsibility of facility operators. As will be mentioned latter in the document an aging population and the growing public conscious regarding the needs of challenged individuals makes this a primary concern at the P.R.A and other sites for recreation in the region.

10.2 Cottonwood Campground Enhancement

This facility as can be seen in the user statistics summaries for all the years it was in operation approached some of the primary destination Provincial Parks in the region (Crowsnest District Provincial Parks). Thus, this campground is a facility that is very favorable to the users and provides them with a quality recreational opportunity. Suggestions made earlier in terms of information exchange heritage appreciation and interpretation will all increase the recreation quality experienced by the users. Present levels of development allow for an economical camping opportunity while providing ample services. Suggestions have been made for allowing access to the shower facilities at Chinook on a user pay basis for extended stay visitors (coin operated showers). This will allow for an increase in available services while not affecting the current rate of camping fees.

10.3 Chinook R.V. Park Enhancement.

The level of development seen at chinook is one of the most extensive seen in Provincial Parks today. No facility improvements are required due to the high level of services already provided. Attempts to decrease available services and thus, decrease camping fees required may increase visitation rates at this site. The main concern around this development is the lack of ability to even slightly approach the potential user statistics that the level of development provides (Appendix I). Downgrading of the present services or sites available will possibly increase the visitation rates. Without immediate action on this site it will remain a drain on the operations manpower and finances that could best be allocated to high use sites. Pay showers and the possible elimination of some services provided at sites will decrease the user fee provided as per services provided. Marketing of the site to R.V. publications may also aid in the increasing of user statistics.

10.4 Island View Camp:ground Enhancement

As mentioned in the boating section the increase in parking available for users would decrease congestion around the boat launch facility. The level of services provided at present allow the recreational user an economical camping opportunity. Further attempts to decrease the wind affects by building wind shelters around the camping facilities would enable a better quality of camping then is presently available. Signage and information exchange would better inform the public as to this sites location and available services and possibly increasing usage. This site should also absorb some of the interpretation programming available at the Core Recreation Complex. User statistics should be monitored closely for the possibility of expansion but, at present the facility does not approach it's potential visitation.

10.5 Potential Day Use/Tenting Sites Enhancement

It has been suggested that the day use facilities already in place do have parking and space available for the development of tenting or walk in tenting sites. North Fork and Todd Creek has a definite potential for this enhancement to allow for economical and low service camping. Windy Point does have wind shaded areas that could facilitate low key camping such as tenting. Improvements such as this to day use facilities would increase the user enjoyment at these sites but, it must be kept in mind that conflicts between long term users and day users must be a primary concern. South Cove has little potential for possible tenting sites.

Marketing and Local Considerations: Enhancement 11.0

A primary suggestion for the enhancement of recreational activities and facilities is to inform the public of the existence of the opportunities available at the reservoir. Passive marketing that has been the norm in the region over the past few years must become a more active marketing program. Empirically we can see evidence that Cottonwood Campground slowly increased usage as "word of mouth" was one of the only means of informing the public of this beautiful location. Personal conversations with local citizens have supported this by a general comment:

"Cottonwood had become very popular once word of mouth spread about how nice it was; in the first year of operations barely anyone knew it was there"

Table XV. Yearly Comparison of Campsite
Nights at Cottonwood Campground

Year/ Operating Months	Campsite Nights
1992 / July to Sept	666
1993/April to Sept	2363
1994/April to Sept	3219
1995/April to June	381

11.1 Economic Considerations

When the creation of a recreation area was proposed it was expected that such a large development would become a destination camping and recreation area. The economic spinoffs to the surrounding region was anticipated to be lucrative for local business. Statistically the user stats are not as sizeable as original projects had been but, they do compare favorable to other Crowsnest District Provincial Parks and Recreation areas (Cottonwood's Camping Statistics for 1994). As can be seen in Appendix I the potential campsite nights is compared with actual camping statistics for the locations. While the number of variables are large that effect the user statistics during the April to September camping season it does show that there is a large unrealized usage that should be pursued. In order to facilitate this a small and fiscally sound marketing program should be initiated. Namely marketing resources could be allocated to an untapped Calgary market and Lethbridge and area markets the result would be a more fiscally sound operation with an increase in user statistics.

11.2 Regional Marketing and Parks

Much is involved in the creation of a marketing plan for the regional Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas. However, the following is a brief summary of a proposed Marketing Plan for the Oldman Dam P.R.A. A theme of exploring Alberta's Parks could be the main driving force. In conversations with local newspapers, lethbridge newspapers, radio and television I found that the best value for the dollar was radio. In speaking with marketing representatives from a few radio conglomerates it was found that a summer campaign of approximately \$3000.00 (average) would be an effective campaign. Marketing ideas included the grouping of prize packages with local businesses in regions with provincial parks in them. For example:

Fishing Tackle from X's Sporting Goods, A Free Trailer Rental from Y's R.V.'s and a week's worth of camping vouchers at any Crowsnest District Park. At the same time, associated with a giveaways such as this, it would reduce costs and increase exposure time on the radio. From speaking with various radio stations it came to my attention that advertising is slowest in the summers and thus is somewhat more cost effective. This coincides with the peak seasons of parks and is thus a frugal marketing venture.

An image of someone driving home from work on a Thursday after the drudgery of a hard day at work with a comment over the radio:

"Wondering what to do this weekend. Why not take a drive and Explore Alberta's Parks."

Special events, campground locations, camping and day use facilities, and things to do can all be attached to a brief radio message.

The key is a more aggressive marketing of parks then that which has occurred in the past. Parks is providing the commodity of "wellness places" that people can escape to from the pressures of everyday life and relax. If the message is properly delivered to people they will visit some of the unknown recreational opportunities. Marketing such as this is directed specifically towards Albertans but, the "word of mouth" marketing is passed on by Albertans to out of town visitors.

Creation 12.0

This section will address the potential creation of new recreational sites at or near the reservoir.

As can be seen by the user statistics presented throughout the document the P.R.A. adequately provides a diverse range of recreational opportunities to the user and facilities at present have not been over utilized. All of the camping sites have not realized their full camping potentials to date and thus require no large scale expansion at present (Appendix I). Monitoring of camping statistics and user input will address the needs of expansion if any in the future.

Creation of facilities and recreational opportunities near the reservoir would be the most fruitful utilization of fiscal resources. The Recreation Sub-committee suggested in their ministerial report that the acquisition of land downstream of the dam spillway to the Summerview Bridge and even the Peigan Reserve would be a favourable endeavour. Increasing the access nodes to the streams in and around the reservoir would increase the recreational fishing and boating potential at the sites.

Creation of tenting or low service camping at some selected day use areas may provide a more broad based and economical camping opportunity to users. Providing the user with a choice of service levels at the entire range of the spectrum and providing adequate signage and information as to the location of these sites will greatly increase the user satisfaction.

Due to the extensive nature of the present development and due in part to good planning all potential recreational activities have been addressed by the present level of development. Wind is a major factor in recreation quality occurring in the region and will always play a part in the total recreational use that the area may ever enjoy. This factor alone must be considered at all levels of future development.

The Future Trends of Recreation 13.0

This section approaches the recreational future of the Dam and quite possibly into all recreational facilities in general.

With a future changing demography the "Baby Boomers" are a growing recreational sector of the population that will soon have a tremendous increase in available leisure time. This user increase will cause a change in the user activities and statistics we presently see in Provincial Parks and other recreational venues. To foresee this demographic change and preparing for the change will allow the future aging users of the facilities to enjoy their recreational pursuits.

The recreation of the baby boomers can be anticipated to be a more passive leisurely approach. Typically centred around Recreational Vehicles and Camping. One must also consider that this demographically growing sector of the population will have a tremendous economic impact on the economy in general. While we cannot anticipate that the financial situation would ultimately be a positive one for this tremendous bubble in the population. Over the next few decades, the large Baby Boom generation will move into their later years to dramatically change the demographic structure of the Canadian Population. From the one in ten today to a one in five by the year 2031 will be over the age of sixty five. Thus, to ensure that the facilities meet the needs of the recreational users a consistent monitoring program must be in place. Barrier free access and Heritage appreciation programming are important consideration for future recreation of an aging population.

This bubble in the demography of the population will greatly outnumber the following generations but, there should be a strong consideration in the needs of children and younger recreational users. Comment cards have noted a need for "more things to do" for children. Adventure packs, discovery kits, and interpretive displays that are fun will all help find things to do for children and youths.

Final Recommendation and Conclusions 14.0

As can be seen by the report the present level of facility development at the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. has been able to adequately mitigate recreation. Facilities have replaced the recreation that occurred prior to the building of the dam while at the same time has fully taken advantage of the new recreational opportunities afforded by the reservoir itself. Prior to the flooding of 1995 ie. based on 1994 statistics the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. was quickly approaching the user statistics seen in some of the more established regional Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas. This trend can be expected to continue. Although some of the user statistics seen can be a direct result of the peak fishing opportunities that the reservoir presently provides the diversity in recreation occurring on the reservoir will allow for a viable future. Ultimately, by the careful monitoring of user statistics and following through on some of the proposed enhancements and possible creation of facilities the Oldman River Dam P.R.A. will meet the needs of recreational users in the future.

14.1 Key Recommendations

Some of the key areas of enhancements or creation that can be recommended:

- ▶ Information boards at all sites of public use addressing the primary concerns seen in the comment cards ie. A response to public comments and inquiries. This is especially important when it comes to fees and levels of service in different Parks.
- ▶ Providing barrier free access to all sites if possible. Address the needs of seniors for future recreation and prepare facilities for these changes in demography.
- ▶ Things to do for kids: program delivery for kids using discovery packs, explorers kits, and interpretation for kids.
- ▶ Mitigation of displaced recreational hunting of deer by means of a Parks issued discharge permit. The consistent monitoring of this program to address potential future concerns and success of the program.
- ▶ Expansion of parking facilities at Island View and North Fork. Creation of car launch facility at North Fork.
- ▶ A drive in Map area where a "touristy" map outlines the facilities available at and near the Oldman River Reservoir.
- ▶ Maintain or increase community involvement: special events. Submission of a regular column to local newspapers eg. What's Going on at the Oldman River Dam to inform the community of events.
- ▶ A decrease in available services at Chinook R.V. Park to decrease the fees charged. Installation of coin operated showers at Chinook to aid long term users at other campground facilities without increasing camping fees.

- Aggressive marketing of Park facilities either those specific to Oldman Dam P.R.A. or on a Regional scale.
- Promotion in North America of Boulder Run Canoe/Kayak Run and Windy Points Sailing and Windsurfing as recreation destinations. Magazines and organizations.
- Acquisition of land downstream of the spillway to increase recreational/protection potential of the Oldman River. Increase or acquire stream access nodes upstream from the reservoir.
- Traffic counters at all day use and extended visitation sites.
- Maintain integration and communication between all government agency stakeholders. More specifically fisheries mitigation as a primary recreation is of great importance to park facility operations.
- Utilization of the prairie ecosystem as a Heritage Appreciation/Interpretation theme.
- Public safety and emergency response systems must be in place especially for water emergencies. Information board previously mentioned as a vehicle of public information.
- Maintain communications and support of private sector development and recreational developments while remaining stewards of the environment.
- Utilize regional tourist destinations as vehicles to increase park usage. Especially Unesco World Heritage sites such as Waterton National Park and Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump.
- Support and cooperation with the Sawss development as a Heritage Appreciation and Interpretation opportunity. Heritage Acres and Rock and Fossil Museum as other cooperative marketing relationships.
- Pursue low impact recreationalist such as birders and nature interpretation. Solicitation of volunteers for bird counts, biophysical inventories and monitoring. Public involvement in wildlife mitigation and appreciation.

- ▶ Development of a survey or public input system that is more topic specific than the comment card system (eg. Questionnaires) the comment cards currently do not have adequate space on them for people to write their suggestions or comments.
- ▶ Pursue ways to create areas of low service camping (ie. Tenting). To provide a low cost alternative camping destination. One of the main comments seen in the comment card survey was complaints to the price of camping. Addressing and attempting to provide a high quality of recreation at an economical price should become an active pursuit.

14.2 Conclusion

Success of mitigation of recreation relies on the success of fisheries mitigation, wildlife mitigation and historical resources and heritage mitigation. It also relies on providing a client-oriented delivery of service that will allow for a successful and lucrative park operation for now and for the future. Without an ability to address the needs of a recreation user the management of the park may not be successful at providing this client-oriented service. As was seen throughout this document there was little empirical and public input that could be used to help address recreation mitigation success. Allowing for input for user needs of the park will allow for the better management of the park and increase the recreation quality of the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

The Oldman River Dam P.R.A. has successfully met the needs of the current clientele but, without a consistent means to monitor future changes in recreation it may not meet the needs of the future. This document does not conclude the monitoring of recreation at the Oldman Dam P.R.A. and rather is proof of a need to sustain and improve it for the future.

Additional Photos

Figure 25. West View Across Reservoir



Figure 26. West View Along the #510

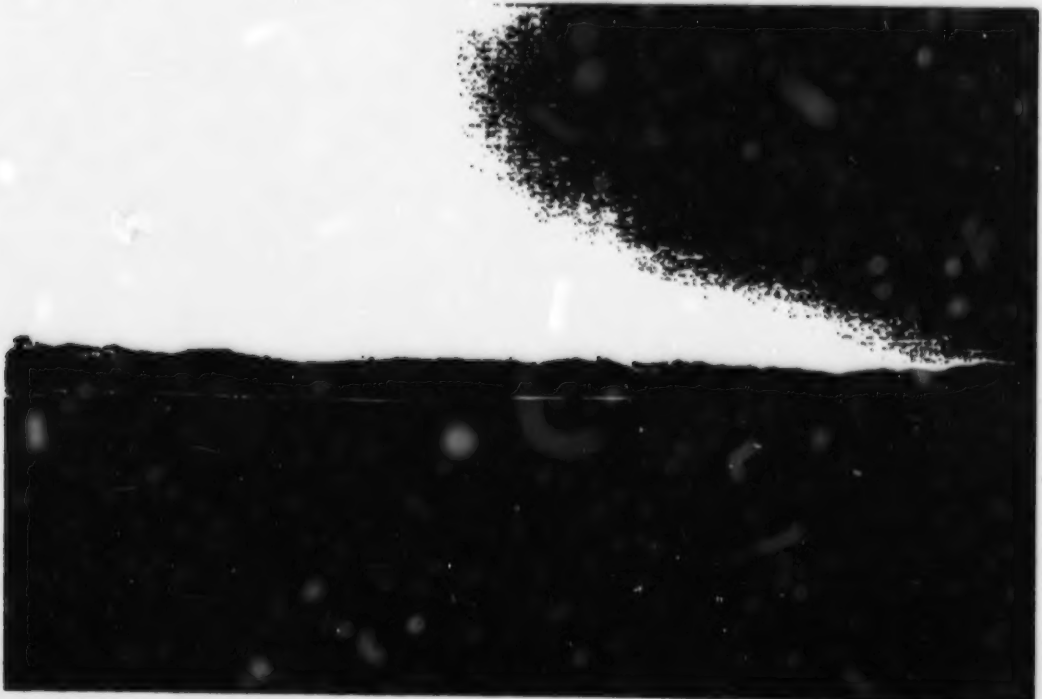


Figure 27. South View of North End of Reservoir

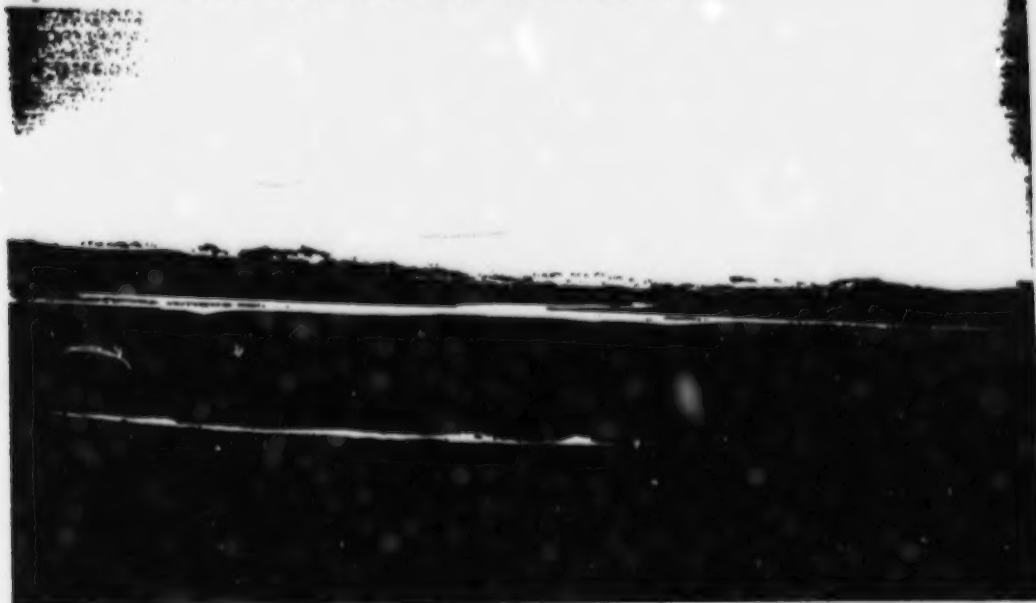


Figure 28. West View to the Rockies: Just North of Reservoir



Figure 29. Southwest View of North End of Reservoir



Figure 30. Example of Wildlife Control Area Access Limitations

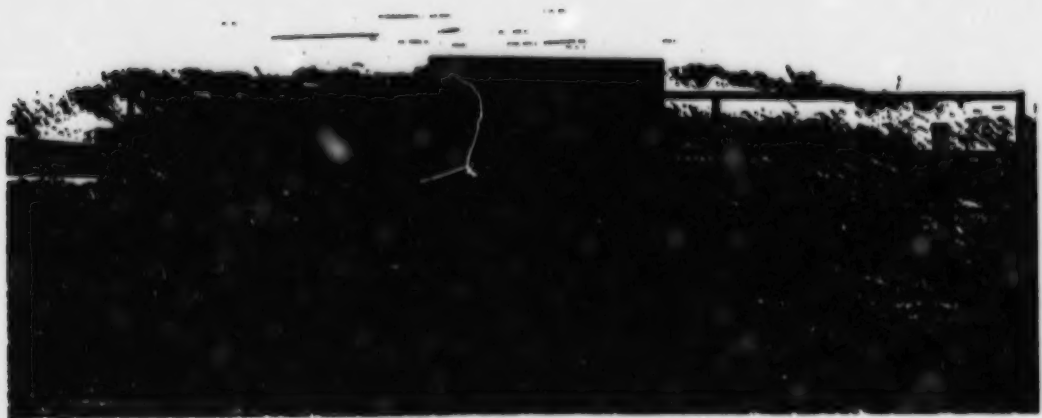
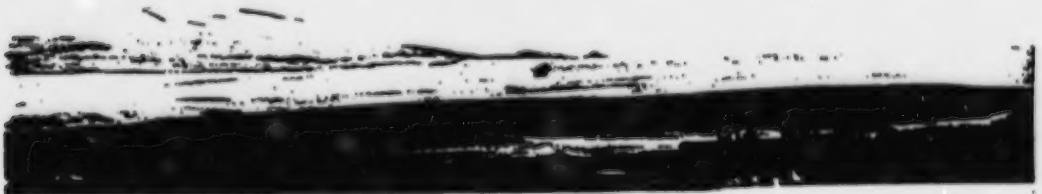


Figure 31. Wetland Habitat Mitigation. North of Core-Recreation Complex

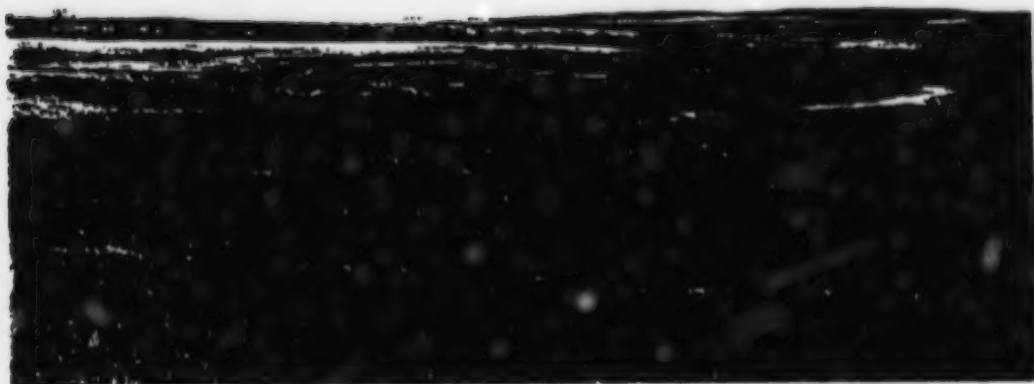


Figure 32. Heritage Acres.

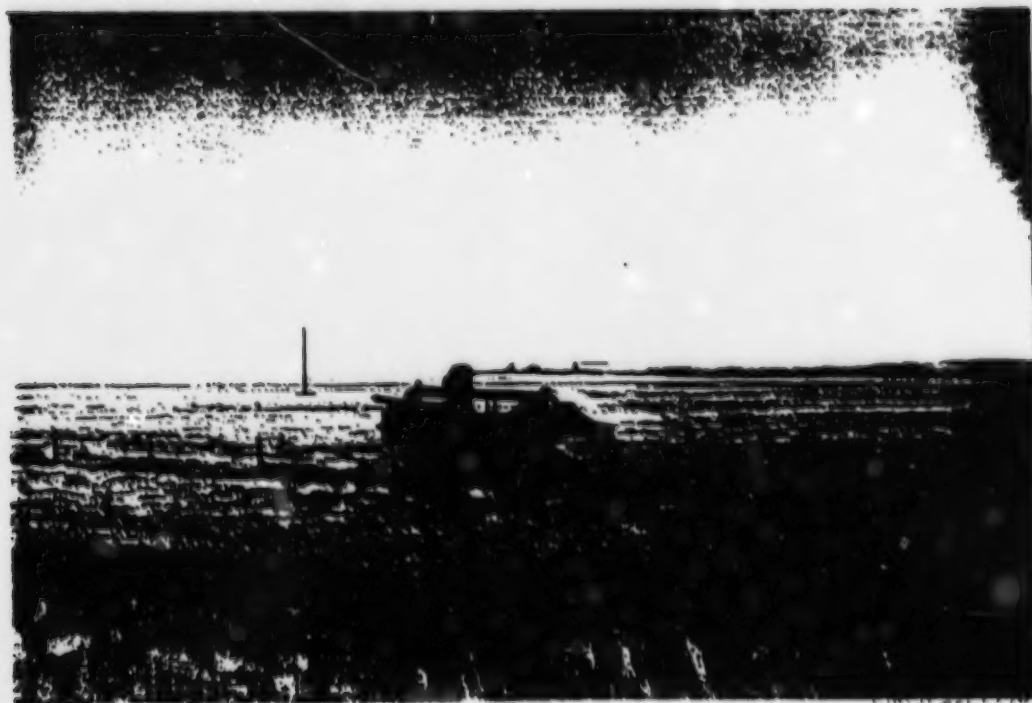


Figure 33. Possible Future Site of "Waterworks" Sawss project.

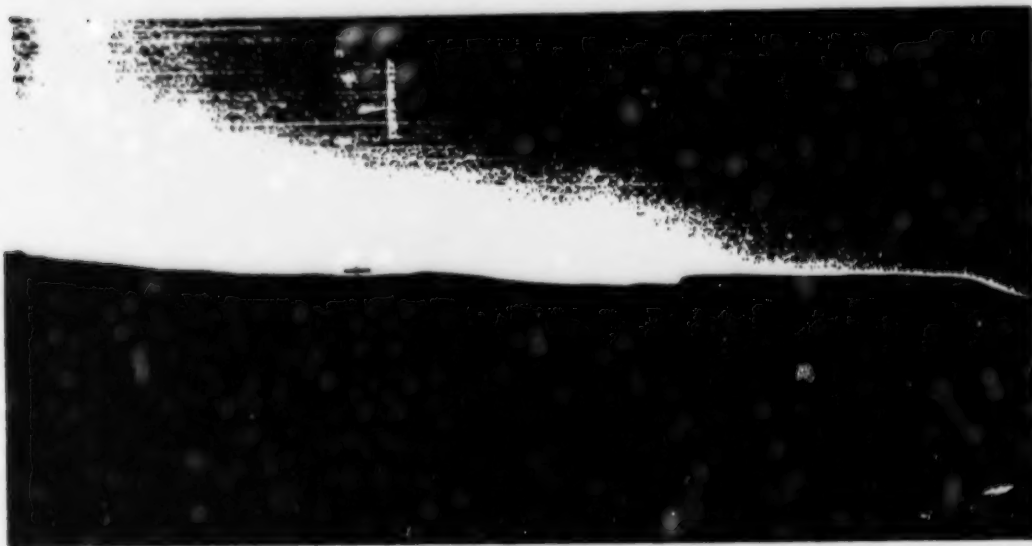


Figure 34. South View of CWR Boat Club



Figure 35. Windy Point Day Use Facilities



Figure 36 Windy Point Boat Launch



Figure 37. Island View Boat Launch

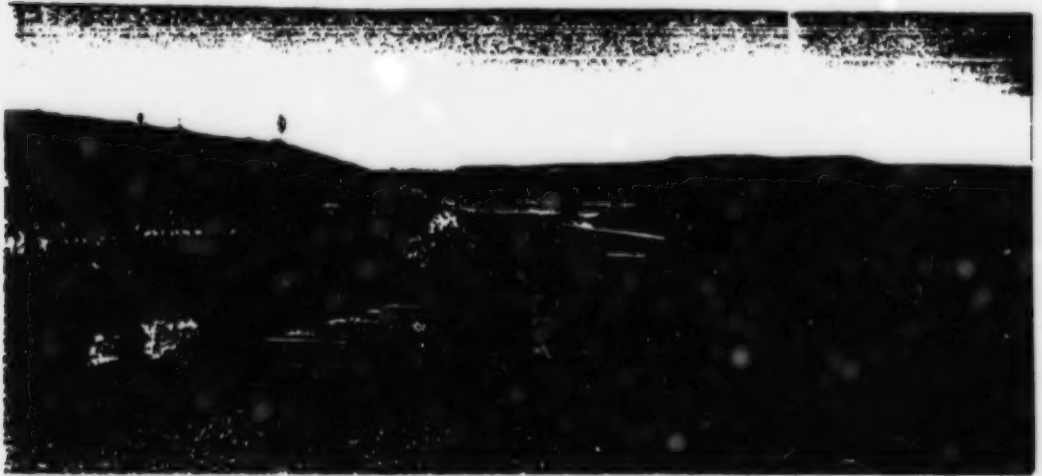


Figure 38. View of Island From Island View: CWR Boat Club
in Background.

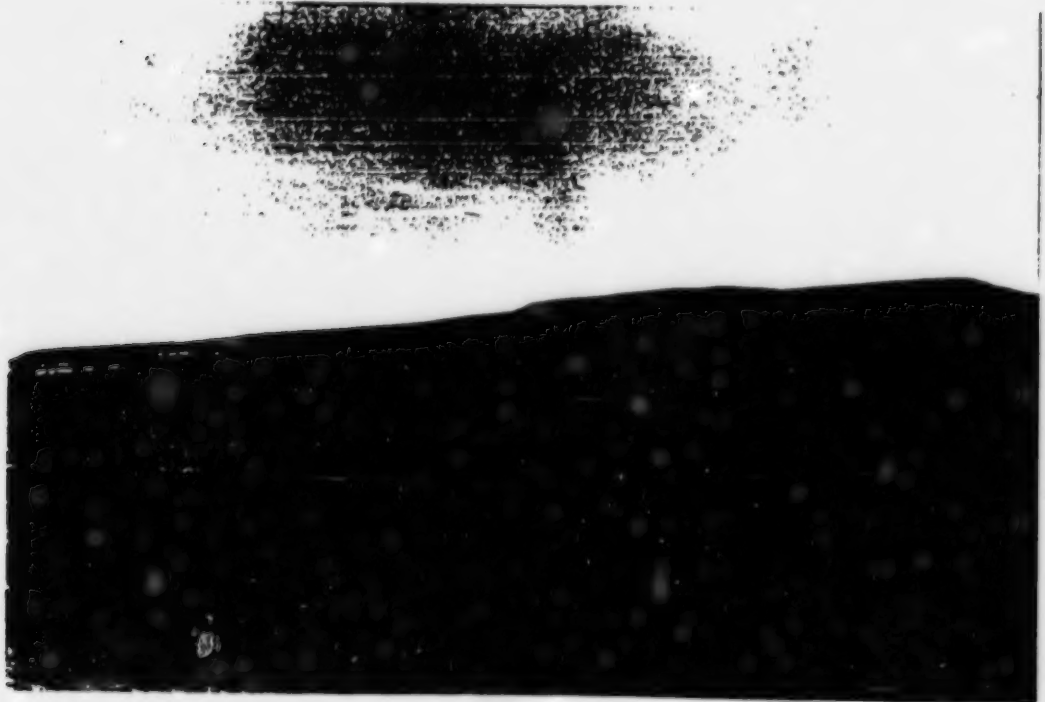


Fig. 1 Park Comparison of Total Campsite Nights for 1993
Contributions to Park User Statistics

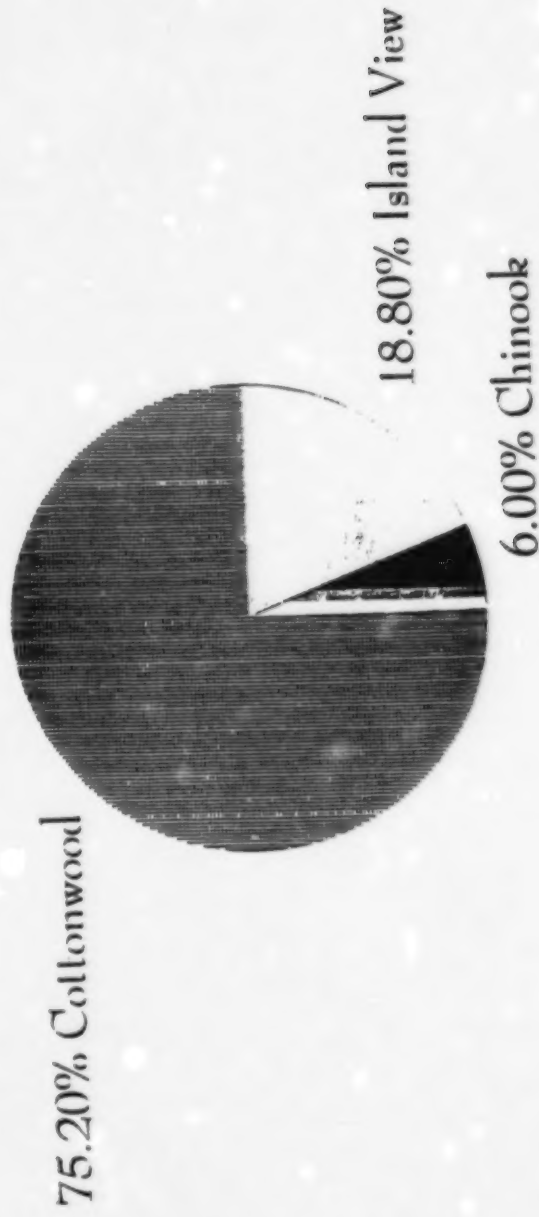
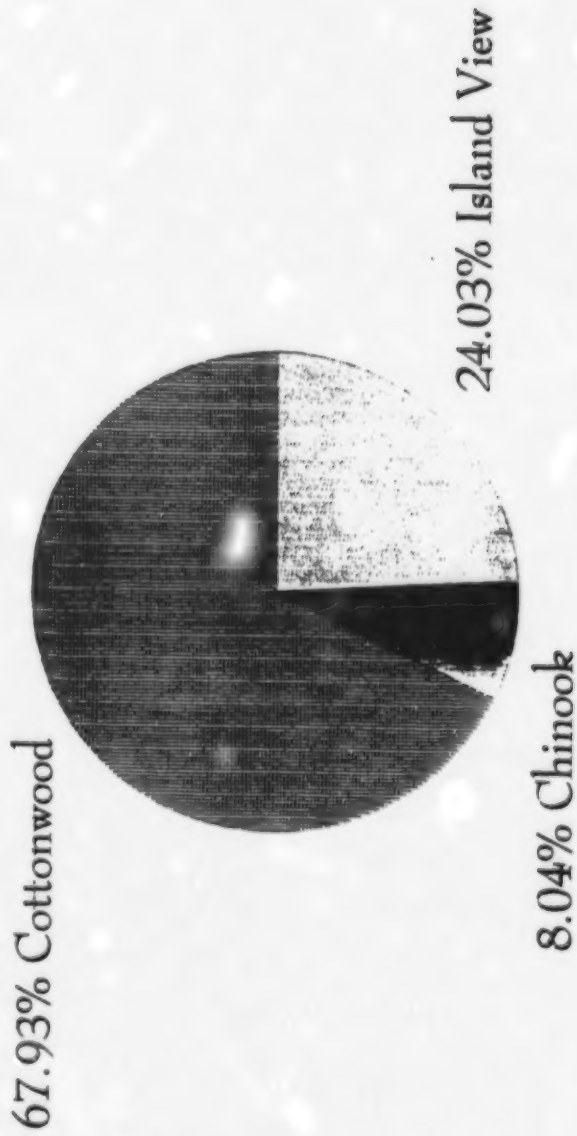


Fig 2. Park Comparison of Total Campsite Nights for 1994
Contributions to Park User Statistics



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Appendices

Appendix I

Potential and Actual Campsite Nights for Primary Campgrounds at the Oldman Dam P.R.A.

1993

1993 Month	Total Nights in Month	Weekend Nights	Occupied Campsite Nights		Island View	
			Cotton- wood	Chinook		
May	31	10	340	0	22	
June	30	8	352	0	82	
July	31	9	682	45	115	
August	31	9	720	88	199	
September	30	8	438	69	215	
Total			2532	202	633	

1993 Month	Cottonwood		Chinook		Island View	
	Potential Campsite Nights	Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	Potential Campsite Nights	Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	Potential Campsite Nights	Potential Weekend Campsite Nights
May	2511	810	5053	1630	1395	450
June	2430	648	4890	1304	1350	360
July	2511	729	5053	1467	1395	405
August	2511	729	5053	1467	1395	405
September	2430	648	4890	1304	1350	360
Total	12393	3564	24939	7172	6885	1980

1993 Month	% of Potential Campsite Nights	% of Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	% of Potential Campsite Nights	% of Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	% of Potential Campsite Nights	% of Potential Weekend Campsite Nights
May	13.54%	41.98%	0.00%	0.00%	1.58%	4.89%
June	14.49%	54.32%	0.00%	0.00%	6.07%	22.78%
July	27.16%	93.55%	0.89%	3.07%	8.24%	28.40%
August	28.67%	98.77%	1.74%	6.00%	14.27%	49.14%
September	18.02%	67.59%	1.41%	5.29%	15.93%	59.72%

1993 Month	Cottonwood Share of Total Campsite Nights	Chinook Share of Total Campsite Nights	Island View Share of Total Campsite Nights
May	93.92%	0.00%	6.08%
June	81.11%	0.00%	18.89%
July	81.00%	5.34%	13.66%
August	71.50%	8.74%	19.76%
September	60.66%	9.56%	29.78%

Appendix I continued...

Potential and Actual Campsite Nights for Primary Campgrounds at the Oldman Dam P.R.A.

1994

1994 Month	Total Nights in Month	Weekend Nights	Occupied Campsite Nights		Island View
			Cotton- wood	Chinook	
May	31	9	336	38	95
June	30	8	530	35	188
July	31	10	1131	159	358
August	31	8	736	96	246
September	30	8	419	45	228
Total			3152	373	1115

1994 Month	Cottonwood		Chinook		Island View	
	Potential Campsite Nights	Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	Potential Campsite Nights	Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	Potential Campsite Nights	Potential Weekend Campsite Nights
May	2511	729	5053	1467	1395	405
June	2430	648	4890	1304	1350	360
July	2511	810	5053	1630	1395	450
August	2511	648	5053	1304	1395	360
September	2430	648	4890	1304	1350	360
Total	12393	3483	24939	7009	6885	1935

1994 Month	% of Potential Campsite Nights	% of Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	% of Potential Campsite Nights	% of Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	% of Potential Campsite Nights	% of Potential Weekend Campsite Nights
May	13.38%	46.09%	0.75%	2.59%	6.81%	23.46%
June	21.81%	81.79%	0.72%	2.68%	13.93%	52.22%
July	45.04%	139.63%	3.15%	9.75%	25.66%	79.56%
August	29.31%	113.58%	1.90%	7.36%	17.63%	68.33%
September	17.24%	64.66%	0.92%	3.45%	16.89%	63.33%

1994 Month	Cottonwood Share of Total Campsite Nights	Chinook Share of Total Campsite Nights	Island View Share of Total Campsite Nights
May	71.64%	8.10%	20.26%
June	70.39%	4.65%	24.97%
July	68.63%	9.65%	21.72%
August	68.27%	8.91%	22.82%
September	60.55%	6.50%	32.95%

Potential and Actual Campsite Nights for Primary Campsite at the Oldman Dam P.R.A.

1995

1995 Month	Total Nights in Month	Weekend Nights	Occupied Campsite Nights		
			Cotton- wood	Chinook	Island View
May	31	8	283	35	73
June	30	8	74	76	69
July	31	10	0	147	167
August	31	8	0	161	178
September	30	9	0	0	0
Total	153	43	357	419	487

1995 Month	Cottonwood		Chinook		Island View	
	Potential Campsite Nights	Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	Potential Campsite Nights	Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	Potential Campsite Nights	Potential Weekend Campsite Nights
May	2511	648	5053	1304	1395	360
June	2430	648	4890	1304	1350	360
July	2511	810	5053	1630	1395	450
August	2511	648	5053	1304	1395	360
September	2430	729	4890	1467	1350	405
Total	12393	3483	24939	7009	6885	1935

1995 Month	% of Potential Campsite Nights	% of Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	% of Potential Campsite Nights	% of Potential Weekend Campsite Nights	% of Potential Campsite Nights	% of Potential Weekend Campsite Nights
May	11.27%	43.67%	0.69%	2.68%	5.23%	20.28%
June	3.05%	11.42%	1.55%	5.83%	5.11%	19.17%
July	0.00%	0.00%	2.91%	9.02%	11.97%	37.11%
August	0.00%	0.00%	3.19%	12.35%	12.76%	49.44%
September	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

1995 Month	Cottonwood Share of Total Campsite Nights	Chinook Share of Total Campsite Nights	Island View Share of Total Campsite Nights
May	72.38%	8.95%	18.67%
June	33.79%	34.70%	31.51%
July	0.00%	46.82%	53.18%
August	0.00%	47.49%	52.51%
September	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Appendix II

1994

A detailed outline of the comment cards for all of the sites under management by the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

Location	Date	Comment
Cottonwood	May 16	Needs some playground equipment, visas should be accepted, or allow people to prepay accounts with Alta Government that allow prepaid camping
Cottonwood	May 19	To expensive for no hookups
Cottonwood	May 20	\$13.00 To expensive
Cottonwood	May 20	It would be nice if we could stay overnight at Windy Point: Saves derigging our equipment
Cottonwood	May 20	\$13.00 To expensive
Oldman @	May 21	Prices ridiculously high for no hookups, Have more at down the road at Lumbrec.
Fort MacLeod		Falls for less money
Cottonwood	May 21	Very Friendly Park Ranger, Nice and Clean
Cottonwood	May 21	To Expensive for no hookups. Lundbreck Falls only charge \$9.00 per night
Island View	June 9	Congratulations, Very fine and clean campground!
Cottonwood	June 2	In the 1994 Alberta campground guide the full price was \$11.00 not \$13.00 as priced. I feel that the charge is too high for the amenities no power and no water
Castle River	June 10	Things that makes the bathrooms smell better: deodorizers
Castle River	June 9	Real toilet paper please.
Cottonwood	June 10	Much too expensive. It's bad enough for seniors and even worse for families who can afford no more than to camp. Each year is getting worse!! I've been a campground host and know the feelings of those who spend what little time they can afford, all of them.
Cottonwood	June 12	The campground is very nice but the Firewood is almost rotten! The trout pond should be for Women and Children (For the Wife)
Cottonwood	June 12	This seems to be a very expensive site for what you get
Oldman @	June 18	Gorgeous campsite but very windy. Perhaps when paving could be made level
Fort MacLeod		
Island View	June 17	Water Pump Haywire
Cottonwood	June 20	A modern camp grounds like this. (Very nice) should have flush toilets and more available garbage containers
Cottonwood	June 19	I intend to phase out all provincial park campgrounds and fire all rangers
Cottonwood	June 22	A calendar at registration would help with date and day
Castle River	June 21	Good but no fish
Chinook RV.	June 23	Pen at registration, hot water is nice but would like cold water too. Burned myself in shower! Drains for wastewater more trees very hot in the A.M.
		N.B. Seems kind of wasteful using tree in playground
Island View	June 22	Who is the caretaker he needs checking up on:
		1. The grass has not been cut this year
		2. The water (Drinking) does not work
		3. The tree sprinklers haven't been on this spring
		What are we paying for?
Cottonwood	June 24	Fees to high!!!
Oldman @	June 30	Too high a fee!
Fort MacLeod		
Island View	June 26 to	We need some multi-vehicle campsites: ie. 3 to 4 outfits
	June 28	Hope you can take care of this
Cottonwood	June 30	To high prices for what you get

Appendix II Continued...

1994	A detailed outline of the comment cards for all of the sites under management by the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.	
Island View	June 26 to June 28	Found Park Rangers very polite and helpful. Also people at info center were quite helpful and courteous. Campsites are beautiful, but not too impressed with Chinook, which is much too exposed and open for our liking
Oldman @ Fort MacLeod	July 1	Nice and clean. Patrolled well
Cottonwood	July 1	It is a very nice place (child wrote this one with a nice happy face on it)
Island View	July 2	Inconvenient fire pits. No grills.
Castle River	July 1	Campsite had no table
Island View	July 2 to July 11	It would be an idea to charge day user fees for use of boat launch and area as they use wood and toilets. Same as everyone else and lower night rates.
Oldman @ Fort MacLeod	July 7	\$13.00 for no services? What a rip off. Whatever happened to standardizing prices. At one of the parks I work at we get showers for \$13.00
		We just stayed at a campground in Waterton that was much nicer and had as many services and only cost \$7.25. Does the Province even want to be competitive
Castle River	July 3 to 4	Thanks to camp attendants for your attention and consideration at dogtrials we were only onlookers but, enjoyed the visit with U.S. visitors and other Canadians.
Cottonwood	July 6 to 7	We enjoyed camping here though felt the fee was high for what we had. It would be nicer if the tall grass had been cut closer to the river bank. It is a nice campground though.
Cottonwood	July 9	You will have to come up with something better on the wood charge. There are 2 families together; paying for two spaces but, sharing one fire only. The other unit is always paying for wood and not using it. A rip off on all parts.
Island View	July 8 to 9	We need a shower in stall and bathroom should be clean and sprayed for bugs I enjoy my visit. Very quiet.
Cottonwood	July 9	Firepits should be on east side of lots out of wind.
Island View	July 8 to 9	Maybe it would be helpful if Payee would appear on envelopes.
Island View	July 9	We think there should be a charge for all boats coming in to launch, their boat as the launching area is full of vehicles and over night campers have a hard time getting through.
Island View	July 9	We would like to see some docking facilities to tie our boats to. Similar to Beauvais Lake Park.
Chinook	July 10	If you want people to stay here. You should better mark the turnoff from Highway 3.
Cottonwood	July 10	Nicely spaced sites. The newly planted trees need water. Enjoyed my stay. Thank you.
Cottonwood	July 13	Very nice park
Cottonwood	July 11	\$13.00 is at least \$8.00 to much.
Chinook	July 15	No complaints! Rather! I thought it was about time I told you how much we appreciate all your efforts to make this park a comfortable, welcoming, safe, and serene spot in such a naturally beautiful setting. Thanks to all the teams.
Cottonwood	July 14	Quiet campground!
Cottonwood	July 15	Beautiful, Clean. We enjoy the stay very much!
Cottonwood	July 15	First time here. Was pleasantly surprised. Nice setting and clean rest rooms.
Cottonwood	July 11	Campsite very nice.
Cottonwood	July 16	I would like to know why Lundbreck Falls is \$7.00 for seniors and this is \$11.00 Same kind of campground.

Appendix II Continued...

1994 A detailed outline of the comment cards for all of the sites under management by the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

- Cottonwood July 16 to July 17 The rangers of this Provincial Park are the greatest. Their friendly professionalism is second to none. It is so nice to come to a well kept campground with different types of entertainment and friendly people.
- Cottonwood July ? This is the louisiest campground even where is swimming hole.
- Cottonwood July 23 A beautiful campsite, but more info needed at campsite i.e.. swimming anywhere is a fishing license required for pond? Thanks for the fantastic stay!
- Oldman @ July 19 You should be able to pay with visa or mastercard
- Fort MacLeod
- Chinook July 17 Lights in the washroom could stay on a little longer, so one does not get caught in dark with pants down. Too much chlorine in the drinking water.
- Cottonwood July 21 Alberta Residents should get a better rate at Alberta Campgrounds as Our Tax Dollars Built them.
- Island View July 21 This is a very nice campground only the rules should be enforced. Such as swimming at the dock area and boats tied up to the dock and left so people have a hard time loading and unloading.
- Cottonwood July 22 Nice facilities. Needs showers to make it a great facility.
- Cottonwood July 21 Irrigate the grass and trees.
- Castle River July 23 No picnic table. But, I was still happy to park my car here overnight.
- Cottonwood July 22 Level sites would be appreciated. The camping price seems high for the facilities available.
- Cottonwood July 22 You need to clear the bushes and get a proper swimming hole that doesn't have leeches or the itch. Truck in some sand for the beach at the dam. If this is an example of Alta parks I will stay in B.C. There's not enough things for kids to do. No trails, no swimming, no ball field. People have to cut through camps to get t river.
- Chinook July 29 I think this facility would be used more if part of it was designated with firepits.
- Cottonwood July 26 Put pay shower in the Chinook Campground. You would make more money on the shower then you do with camping.
- Cottonwood July 24 to July 30 Appreciate the clean toilets and campgrounds. Peaceful surroundings nature is wonderful. Close to fishing and boating. We'll certainly recommend it.
- Chinook July 29 The RV. Park is a very lovely facility. My suggestion would be to have firepit stoves. In part of the area: I think the park would be better used. I'm sure that is one reason you don't see alot of people here.
- Chinook July 27 Repair divot in road between water pump and workshop at Chinook RV. Campground, Very Rough on R.V.s.
- Cottonwoods July 24 to July 31 We were impressed: 1. With the tidiness of the bathroom facilities the "night light" much appreciated 2. The large campsites with grassy areas 3. the flora and fauna entertainment. All in all a very enjoyable camping experience. Our first time here.
- Cottonwood July 30 1. It would be great if there was wooden steps at a couple of areas to get down to the river area- Some areas very dangerous-possibility of broken legs or ankles.
- 2, People that stay over three days have access to showers at Chinook park
3. A little more gravel in camping areas.
- Cottonwood Aug. 5 The campground is beautiful.
- Cottonwood Aug. 6 Excellent: needs to be marked as a provincial campground at top of dam to save confusion. Improve fish pond.
- Cottonwood Aug. 3 Showers and flush toilets should be located in the tent area below the RV. camp as well as in RV. camp. Tents like to be clean too!! Both are the same price!! Otherwise nice area: like location: quiet!!

Appendix II Continued...

1994 A detailed outline of the comment cards for all of the sites under management by the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

Cottonwood	Aug. 3	1. Post speed limits 2. cost too high for what you get 3. Poor wood. 4. Very dusty 5. Need place for kids to swim. 6. Fish pond is a joke.
Cottonwood	Aug. 4	Too much money per night for camping can camp at mountain sites for at least \$4.00 cheaper and wood is included in the price.
Cottonwood	Aug. ?	Pond Area" seems unkept. Trash in children's fish pond, also pond is in sad shape. Traffic flow on south side of pond is over park speed limit: sign needed!! Very dry fire for the amount of water available.
Cottonwood	Aug. 2 and 3	Lovely spot.
Cottonwood	Aug. 1	Good
Cottonwood	Aug. 6	\$13.00 and no shower. Should be \$11.00
Cottonwood	Aug. 7	I had two Grandchildren with me one thing you sure could use is playground equipment and a swimming area.
Cottonwood	Aug. 4	Too much for what you get. Chinook Lake is only \$9.00 a night and wood is free. Much nicer campsite
Cottonwood	Aug. 4	The toilets are stinky. Put some lime to cut down the odor; down the hole.
Chinook	Aug. 5 and Aug. 6	Nice and clean. But, no fire pits.
Chinook	Aug. 13 to Aug. 14	Should do something about the Canada Thistle and Wildsunflower. As those are very bad weed. Once they have established it doesn't take long before they spread everywhere. Otherwise clean camp.
Cottonwood	Aug. 11	Price is too high for no hookups at all.
Cottonwood	Aug. 12	I recently stayed in a private campground for \$15.00 a night and got electricity, water, showers. I just wanted to visit the dam, not buy the damn dam.
Island View	Aug. 10 to Aug. 11	We noticed alot of damaged site marker posts and this will also leave damaged units. A thought that runs thru my mind: why not make markers flush with ground and angled up to about four inches? Possibly backed by a flexible pole with flag. Nicely kept park and fresh washrooms.
Chinook	Aug. 13	We had full hookups in Chinook RV. Park were pleased with our stay. However would have appreciated even one "communal" fire pit.
Castle River	Aug. 13	Overrun with ants and flies Water is warm enough for bathing Nice clean area.
Castle River	Aug. 19	Poorly maintained. Have just visited several U.S. sites and this is a poor Canadian example. Dirty with poor tent pads and missing tables.
Island View	Aug. 19	Poorly laid out!
Castle River	Aug. 16	Facilities good for prices accepting non-flush toilets and showers. Location great.
Cottonwood	Aug. 17	We need fire wood close to playground. Showers in Cottonwood, Telephone Pay Station, Grocery Store for necessities.
Cottonwood	Aug. 16 and Aug. 17	To expensive for what is here.
Cottonwood	Aug. 14 to Aug. 21	You should put at least one shower down here for use folles that spend two weeks at a time here. You have a very nice park and we enjoy it very much.
Chinook	Aug. 20	Enjoyed our stay in the area. Thankyou, thankyou, for the showers xoxoxox you need shower facilities at each location. Off set expenses by charging per shower. i.e., Klondike Kampground (South Edmonton) \$0.25 for five minutes. Well worth it.
Oldman @ Fort MacLeod	Aug. 23	Flatter Sites

Appendix II Continued...

1994

A detailed outline of the comment cards for all of the sites under management by the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

- ottonwood Sept. 2 With a little extra work. re: trout pond, swimming pond, could be quite a holiday area.
However, \$13.00 is a little pricey for what is currently offered.
Like the park. Great wash house (cleanest park: Prov, federal, private, I've been in)
Please more water volume in showers and well all be done sooner!
Very nice clean park. Really enjoyed it.
Would be nice if there was a shelter with a wood stove for days that are cool or windy. We were a group of 22 and would have made good use of it.
Also come here again.
At Highwood our group paid \$20.00 a night for firewood and 3 nights and never use it. Ticked off. Now we are requested to pay within 30 minutes of entry. of course we don't need to stay.
Why don't you put some campstoves. You would see more people.
Change Freshwater tap so a hose can be connected to fill up motorhomes
To much money for site, we are not all millionaires or boaters or fisherman.
Please extend further west the launching beach at Windy Point. The island in front of existing beach blocks the way out onto the lake. If visible the island is not a danger but, inconvenience, if covered by shallow water it is a hazard.
We really enjoy it here but, it would be nice to have some dumping facilities.
- ook Sept. 3 Post speed limit sings to decrease dust. Possible reduced rate for week-long campers in the off season.
d View Sept. ? Thank you for advising us with warning pertaining to the understanding of regulations.
onwood Sept. 4 We have been here numerous times and think this facility is very nice.
onwood Sept. ? The one thing we would like to see is firepits that is what camping is all about that is the reason we camp in cottonwood.
Great spot.
View Sept. 3 and Sept. 4 Very Good Spot did not have change but, it was worth it.
- wood Sept. 11 to Well be back next year!!
Sept. 19 Need leveler spots. I think there should be a reduced rate in the fall say, after October 1 since it is really not that enjoyable to freeze yourself in a tent by a river with no fish in it. Lights out in bathrooms!!
wood Sept. 19 Why pay \$13.00 here; \$9.00 at Beaver Mines? That's almost 50% more for nothing more!
Nice campground fee is reasonable and affordable.
- ik Sept. 23
- wood Sept. 19
- iew Sept. 18 to Sept. 19
- Sept. 28
- ood Oct. 7
- ood Sept. 9
- ew Oct. ?

Appendix II Continued...

995

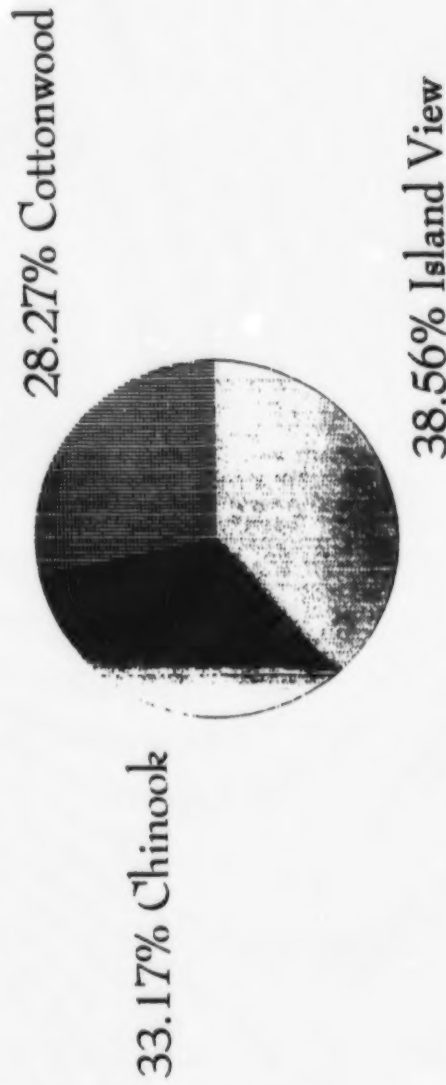
A detailed outline of the comment cards for all of the sites under management by the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.

Location Date	Comment
Oldman @ May 14 MacLeod	We found the facilities to be very comfortable.
Oldman @ May 19 MacLeod	Very good locations. Friendly service. This is our second visit. We like it.
Woodward May 20	We were really impressed with the cleanliness of the facility and easy access during a rainstorm!!
Woodward May 20 to May 21	Very good.
View May 20	Why can't the taps be adaptable to hoses. A lot of R.V.s don't carry water until they are at campsites.
Oldman @ May 26 MacLeod	Wonderful camp hosts and campsites-very impressed.
Oldman @ May 26 MacLeod	Park Host very competent. Friendly and helpful. Park very clean.
Oldman @ May 28 MacLeod	Excellent, Friendly, quiet and restful, fine.
Oldman @ June 3 MacLeod	Excellent, Dave is Great. Thanks.
Oldman @ May 31 MacLeod	Everything very nice, good camp host but please eliminate 98% of crows and magpies.
Oldman @ May 31 MacLeod	Park Host Excellent.
Oldman @ N/A MacLeod	For a nominal fee of \$2 to \$4 you might have half the visitors who used to stay here. At \$7.00 it is a big joke.
Oldman @ May 29 MacLeod	Hospitable host, nice park.
View June 4	Need playground here. Grass should be cut, get rid of noxious weeds.
View N/A	Uncut grass, creates mosquito problem, bad weed problem: Burdock.
View N/A	Need Playground
Oldman @ June 1 MacLeod	Nice camp, clean and the host Dave Houghton was very helpful. Enjoyed our stay.
Oldman @ June 1 MacLeod	This is a disappointment to see the washrooms demolished when they are and were suitable. This project seems a waste in the times of fiscal responsibility.
Oldman @ N/A MacLeod	Get rid of the barbed wire. There is people with small kids. Not Cows.
View June 8	No drinking water is my huge problem for a group on bicycles who had just traveled 110 kms. But we will survive. This place is beautiful.
View June 22	Very nice campground. Different because of wild grass between sites an unusual thing to see, and because of that gives it its own character, let grass grow, don't bend to pressure to cut it.
View June 22	Suggest a horseshoe pit would be a nice addition.
View July 4 to 5 MacLeod	Badly need a drinking water supply for bike campers.
View July 3 to 5	Good condition considering. However, one mens washroom was filthy.
	Keep up the good work: we had a good time.

Appendix II Continued...

1995	A detailed outline of the comment cards for all of the sites under management by the Oldman River Dam P.R.A.	
Chinook	July 4	Very windy but, campsite was nice and clean.
Island View	July 2	There is no name on the envelope to make cheques payable to.
Chinook	July 13	Very nice campsite. Great playground. Horseshoe pits and laundromat would be perfect.
Oldman @	July 6	Should have writing utensils for registration.
Fort MacLeod		
Chinook	July 13	Put in some grass tent sites. Let some sheep in to crop the grass.
Chinook	July 4	Very windy but, campsite was nice and clean
Chinook	July 7	We are B.C. seniors and we're not using shower or power: no break.
Oldman @	July 20	Very nice
Fort MacLeod		
Chinook	July 21 to July 27	No running water. Rate adjustment would be appropriate.
Chinook	July 17	Please replace the torn plastic shower curtain in the women's washroom. It's really tacky.
Island View	July 28 to July 30	Bathrooms very bad odor. No toilet paper. More trees should be planted to cut down on wind.
Oldman @	N/A	Horse manure...A disgrace.
Fort MacLeod		
Chinook	Aug 4	Need fireplaces.
Oldman @	N/A	Why not move table and fireplaces to the east side of the parking lot.
Fort MacLeod		So that the awning can be used without the wind causing problems. This would be easily accomplished in the drive thru sites that are suitable to our prevailing winds.
Oldman @	N/A	We need more services for handicapped people.
Fort MacLeod		
Mayercroft	Aug 5	Toilets were filthy
Mayercroft	Aug 8	Toilets are disgusting. Garbage needs removal.
Oldman @	Aug 1	Pleasant stop.
Fort MacLeod		
Oldman @	Aug 3	Horse manure: filthy.
Fort MacLeod		
Island View	Aug 5	We would like the tables and firepits on the lee side of the wind so we can sit in shelter.
Chinook	Aug 5	Nice park and very well maintained. Not happy with people using park for picnicing and a shower.
Oldman @	Aug 10	Campground hosts are a great asset to the park. We need more of these in our campgrounds.
Fort MacLeod		
Oldman @	Aug 11	Campgrounds host were great.
Fort MacLeod		
Oldman @	Aug 13	Camp is clean, ample sites good shape. We have enjoyed Canada's campsites.
Fort MacLeod		
Oldman @	Aug 8	Our host was excellent. Wonderfully clean, quiet place.
Fort MacLeod		
Chinook	Aug 14	Windy: needs more trees.
Oldman @	Aug 19	Would not have stayed here but, the host changed our minds. Very friendly host very interesting campfire talk. Birds of Prey. Thank you.
Fort MacLeod		
Chinook	N/A	Water, water, everywhere. But you can't see any from the campground. How imbecelic!
Oldman @	Aug 23 to	Excellent facilities and well maintained.
Fort MacLeod	Aug 24	
Chinook	N/A	Very Nice
Oldman @	Aug 29	Nice to be greeted by Dave.
Fort MacLeod		

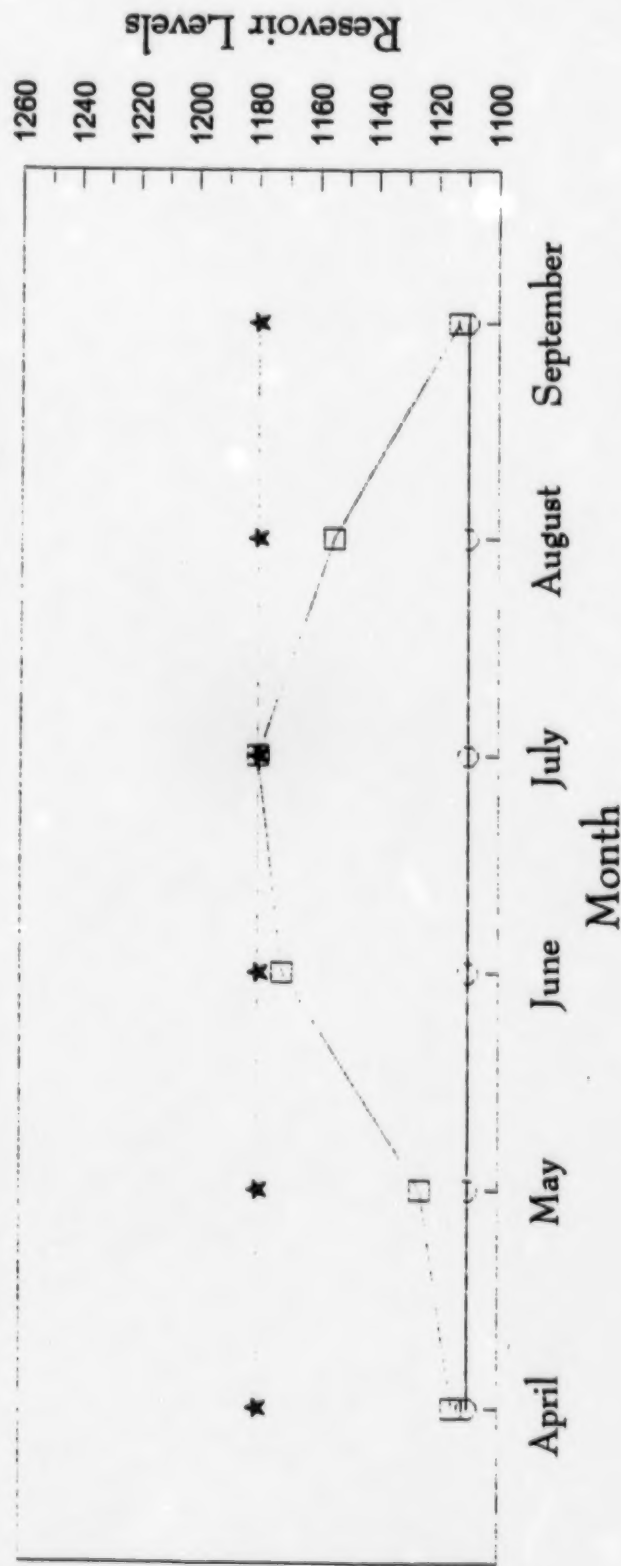
Fig 3. Park Comparison of Total Campsite Nights for 1995
Contributions to Park User Statistics



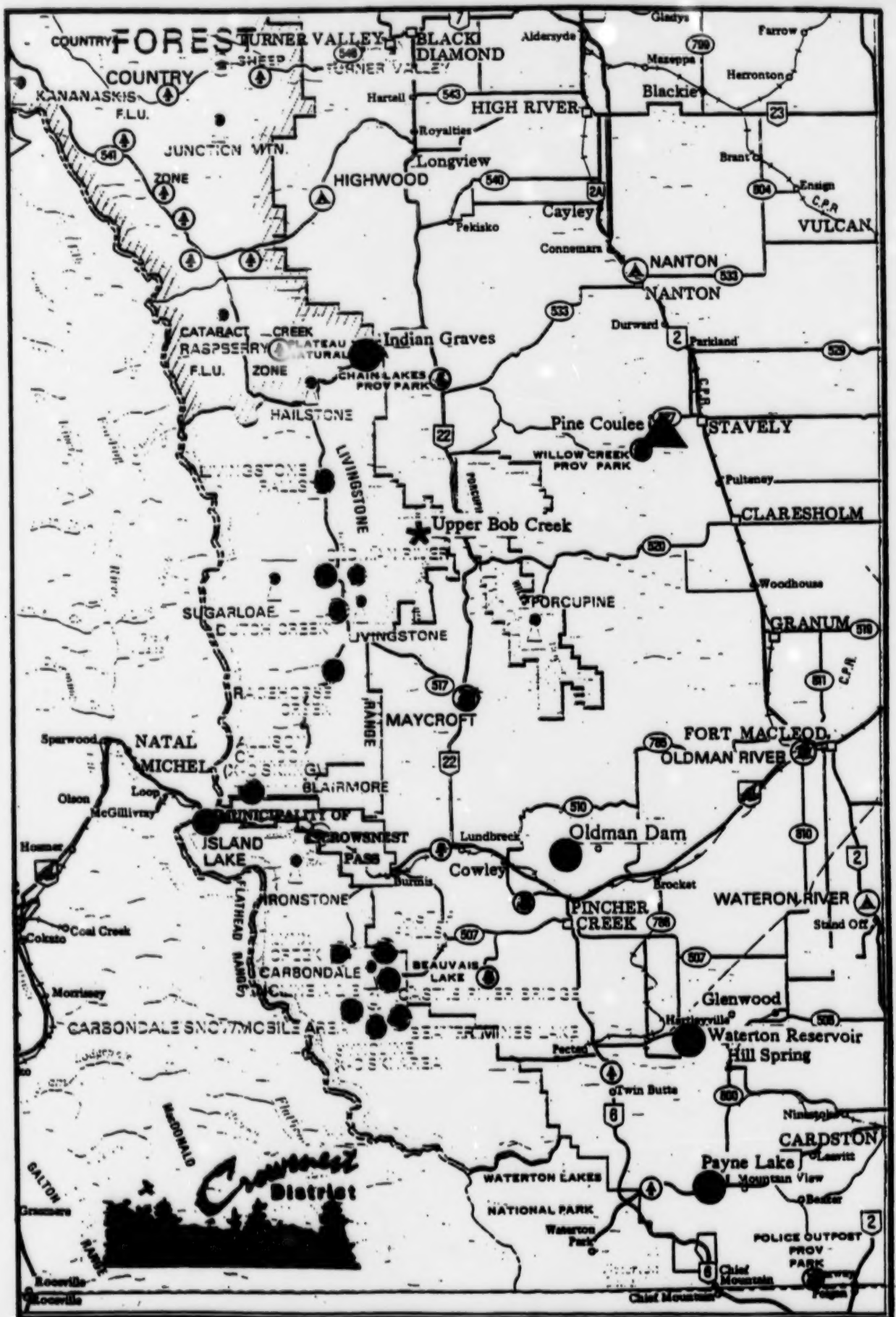
Note: Flooding Caused the Closure of Cottonwood

Appendix IV. Average Reservoir Level Changes

Seasonality of Reservoir Levels: Average Reservoir Levels



□ Average Reservoir Levels 53% ☆ Minimum Recreation Reservoir Levels
★ Full Supply Levels



Input Survey For Recreational Mitigation Monitor Survey

1 Location/Organization

2 Present Land Use

3 Long Term Plans or Outlook

4 What is the most important summer recreational activity at the resevoir or adjacent facilities:

☐
☐
☐
☐

Fishing
Swimming
Sailing
Windsurfing

☐
☐
☐
☐

Water Skiing
Picnicking
Canoeing/Kayaking/Rafting
General Relaxation

☐
☐
☐
☐

Walking/Hiking
Beach Activity
Row Boating
Power Boating

5 What recreational activities would you consider the three most important?

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

6 What do you see as the most important winter recreational activity at the resevoir or adjacent:

☐
☐
☐
☐

Ice Fishing
CrossCountry Skiing
Hunting
Snowshoeing

☐
☐
☐
☐

Ice Sailing
Snowmobiling
Ice Skating
General Relaxation

7 What recreational activities would you consider the three most important?

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

8 Effects of Recreation:

	Very Positive	Positive	No Effect	Negative	Very Negative
Auto Traffic.					
People					
Boats/Sporting Goods:					
Services					
Commercial/Recreational					
Development					
Public Recreational					
Development					
Seasonal Cottages					
Residential Development					
Access to Reservoir					
Livestock Effected					
Water Quality					
Public Safety					

9 Present Development Likes and Dislikes:

- 10 Do you favor public (provincial/municipal) or private (individual/organization) Recreational Development at the resevoir: Increased or Decreased?**

- 11 Do you feel that the public has been exposed to the opportunities present at the resevoir in terms of recreation? Eg. Marketing**

- 12 Do you feel that the present opportunities that the resevoir provides in terms of recreation is fullfilled by the present status of facilities? Why?**